



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Yeltsin Holds Meeting on Servicemen

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports on Yeltsin's 21 July meeting with the heads of Russian oblast, kray, and republic administrations, the Defense Ministry leadership, and the commanders of districts, fleets, and groups of forces. The only item on the agenda was "social security for servicemen." Commenting on the lack of cooperation between local executive organs and the military on this issue, Yeltsin complained that "the local authorities often resort to various kinds of tricks" to avoid implementing the 19 February 1992 decree "On Measures To Increase Social Protection for Servicemen." On the other hand, Yeltsin added that the funds allocated for military housing "are insufficient because of the drastic increase in construction costs." Yeltsin said that "a third of Russia's regions" have "failed to implement his decree."

At the end of the meeting Yeltsin called for "tough measures" against "those representatives of the administration who have effectively sabotaged implementation of the decree" and "ordered that the reasons for the nonimplementation of the decree be studied within the month and that action be taken against the culprits, up to and including dismissal."

Officials Comment on Ship Sailing to Odessa

Black Sea Fleet Commander Igor Kasatonov held a news conference on 22 July where he said: "As a result of unilateral actions by the Ministry of Defense and an operational group of the Ukraine Navy, the situation in the Black Sea Fleet is becoming increasingly explosive. As an analysis of recent events has shown, the Ukrainian side has in effect chosen the path of unilaterally privatizing the Black Sea Fleet in circumvention of accords that have been reached and the continuing process of talks on the Fleet," reports Moscow Radio.

Kiev TV carries an interview in which Ukrainian Defense Minister Morozov reacted to the crew's actions by stating: "According to the commander of the ship, what forced the crew to take unsanctioned actions was the unlawful actions of the command of the Black Sea Fleet in the absence of decisions on the fleet at the state commission level. In this connection, the Defense Ministry of Ukraine has to make a resolute protest to the actions of the command of the Black Sea Fleet and a demand to immediately stop unlawful actions toward the citizens of Ukraine undergoing military service in their state." "We do not belong to a military bloc; we do not deploy our troops on the territory of other states. There should not be troops belonging to other states on our territory. We will solve this question by negotiations. We are ready to compromise, to show goodwill, but never to divide Ukraine. It is indivisible and inviolable." According to INTERFAX, Ukrainian Navy Commander Boris Kozhin said that "no criminal charges will be brought against the crew" and that "it would face only administrative punishment."

14th Army Begins Confiscating Weapons in Dniester

Moscow TV reports that General Lebed, commander of Russia's 14th Army in Moldova, "started a large-scale operation for confiscating weapons" as part of the task to demilitarize the Dniester region agreed to in the peace settlement. "Paratroopers are trying to stop a wave of crime and looting", notes the television report.

Lithuanian Nuclear Plant Leak 'Insignificant'

Vilnius Radio reports that on 20 July "there was a leak of helium from the gas circuit of the reactor in the first power unit of the Ignalina nuclear power plant." "There was an extremely insignificant increase in the discharge of radioactive substances into the environment during the accident". "According to Viktor Shevardin, director general of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, the radiation level did not change, either in the nuclear plant or around it." Helsinki Radio reported that the Lithuanian radiation protection authorities noted that "nothing out of the ordinary happened at the power station."

Spokesman on Bush Decision on Nuclear Testing

LD2207134292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1333 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS—The decision of U.S. President George Bush on changes in the policy in the field of nuclear tests was met with interest in Russia, according to spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry. It testifies that there appeared "a certain movement in the previously inflexible U.S. position on this important international issue", Aleksandr Rozanov said at a briefing on Wednesday [22 July].

Russia hopes that the joint consideration of the American programme underway in the U.S. administration and the Congress will result in concrete steps aimed at limiting and, finally, stopping nuclear tests, he added.

The Russian position remains the same. "We stand for an early ban on nuclear tests by all countries", the spokesman said, adding Russia has been fully observing its one-year long moratorium on nuclear tests. "We welcome the decision of France which has interrupted its nuclear tests. We believe other nuclear powers should follow suit of Russia and France", Rozanov added.

Russia is ready to immediately begin working out an international agreement on a complete ban of nuclear tests with the participation of all countries. "In practical terms we offer to the U.S. Administration to resume phased negotiations and view them as a process towards a complete ban on nuclear tests", he stressed.

NASA, CIA Visit 'Top Secret' Missile Center

LD2207123692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1225 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Krauchenko]

[Text] Dnepropetrovsk July 22 TASS—A group of experts from NASA, the CIA, the U.S. National Space Council and the Air Force visited a top secret space and missile centre "Yuzhnoye" in Ukraine.

They acquainted themselves with space craft designed there, watched documentaries on the launches of the missiles, visited design bureaus and productional facilities. They were mostly interested in the SS-18 strategic missile which was nicknamed "Satan" in the U.S. The missiles are to be scrapped according to agreements with the United States.

Director of the enterprise Leonid Kuchma and chief designer Stanislav Konyukhov offered several directions of cooperation to American guests, in particular, the creation of a unified missile system for rendering emergency aid to people in any part of the globe. Equipment to predict earthquakes can be also jointly produced.

Defense Aide on Future of Weapons Production

PM2207112692 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 22 Jul 92 p 1

[Observer Aleksandr Golts report: "How Many Weapons Do We Need? First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin Shares His Thoughts on This With Journalists"]

[Text] Among the many acute problems which the nascent Russian Defense Ministry will have to solve, the questions of military-technical policy, arms purchases, and the formation of military orders occupy a noteworthy place. This became obvious to me during a "press hour" when First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin answered journalists' questions. Although, apart from the aforesaid aspects, he is also in charge of international cooperation in the military sphere and talks on the problems of safeguarding security, policy in the military-technical sphere was the main topic of the discussion.

When State Orders Are No Salvation

Orders for the purchase of military hardware are being drawn up under exceptionally difficult conditions, A. Kokoshin noted. Arms production is being cut back on a huge scale—by 50-60, and in certain cases even 90, percent. And, contrary to the widely held view, military-industrial complex enterprises by no means always see a way out for themselves from the complex economic position in state orders for arms production. The fact is that in a number of cases they have already reached the profitability borderline and in some cases have already crossed that line. Military orders are becoming unprofitable owing to the explosive growth in component prices, particularly for electronics. Some components have gone up in price 30-40-fold. Yet the end price of the output is set at a considerably lower level.

Just what are the Defense Ministry's tasks under these conditions? In A. Kokoshin's opinion, they are to supply the Armed Forces' most urgent needs on the basis of the modest funds which will be allocated. And it is necessary to retain as much scientific and technical potential as possible and to lay the groundwork in the sphere of next-generation scientific and technical developments.

At the same time, A. Kokoshin believes, the time has come to determine together with other departments which enterprises will remain purely state enterprises stably producing military hardware and armaments. We also need to determine which enterprises will leave the defense complex and be converted. And, in A. Kokoshin's opinion, the most important role will be played in the future by diversified companies producing both military and civilian equipment.

One other priority task is to introduce the contract [kontraktno-dogovornyy] system in relations between the Defense Ministry and enterprises, whereby both sides would have mutual obligations. After all, state

orders—which have demonstrated their inefficiency under market conditions—are still in operation. The defense department is currently concluding a discussion of the principles of contractual relations with top industrial leaders and the league of defense enterprises.

Life Is More Complex Than Even the Most Accurate Blueprints

Many people—and A. Kokoshin admitted to probably being one of them—campaign for a military doctrine to be drawn up initially, followed by a concept for the Armed Forces' organizational development. And we should only order military hardware on the basis of this concept. But we have yet to arrive at this logical and entirely correct position. A different position currently operates.

The goal of switching from an army-based to a corps-based structure, and from a division-based to a brigade-based structure has already been formulated. This presupposes an entirely different organizational and personnel structure. And a number of very fine weapons are to all intents and purposes losing their original role in the process. After all, they were not only part of the division-army concept, but also of the concept of the war which it was thought would be fought. The concept was of a large-scale battle in the continental theater. Incidentally, A. Kokoshin noted, there is so much remarkable equipment that we simply have to find room for it.

When drawing up next year's orders we must start standardizing military hardware. A. Kokoshin quoted the following figures to the journalists. There are 37 specifications and versions of missile and artillery armaments deployed with the U.S. ground forces. We have 62. Equally—we have 62 specifications of armored equipment, whereas the Americans have 16. We have 26 types of surface-to-air missile complexes; they have four. Needless to say, it will take years and years to get rid of this weapons proliferation. But we simply have to start producing one type of weapon instead of four different types.

But these are by no means easy decisions. And it is not the new ministry leadership that will have priority in this area. These issues emerged over the course of years and decades. But whenever they did emerge, they were never resolved. And now the ending of production of a certain type of military hardware often escalates into a political matter and an issue whose resolution could affect social tension in areas with a large preponderance of defense enterprises in their industrial base. And the decision will have to be made at the top political level.

Full Independence Is Possible But Not Advantageous

Political considerations are also affecting production sharing with the other CIS republics in arms production. A. Kokoshin believes that Russia now has sufficient potential to produce the full range of military equipment. In certain cases we do indeed need to transfer production of certain types of armaments to within the country—in order to ensure complete independence in

the most important areas, and to guarantee stricter controls over this equipment.

But in most cases there is no need for this. Moreover, a transfer of production will require expenditure running into hundreds of billions of dollars. Furthermore, meaningful talks have been begun with certain countries on mutually advantageous military-technical cooperation, with a discussion of specific projects, specific enterprises, and financial commitments.

Defense Industry Is Source of Russian Output's Competitiveness

In general, in A. Kokoshin's opinion, it would be wrong to view the defense industry merely as a source of armaments and military hardware. Such scientific and technical might is concentrated there that it could become a most important component of the market economy. And, in the long term, a source of ensuring the competitiveness of Russian goods in the world market. But, for this to happen, the defense sector will have to break out of its familiar, isolated world.

The reason conversion has not succeeded is not because defense enterprises should be assimilating simple output instead of complex output. The fact is that the targets given to defense enterprises were set without reference to the prime cost of output or its competitiveness. Major associations which were designed to resolve highly complex targeted tasks in the military sphere should focus on the same tasks in the civilian sphere. For instance, they should not be producing refrigerators, they should be developing communications systems and unique products in the sphere of transportation and power engineering. And this could give a boost to the development of the entire economy.

Experts Begin CFE Inspection of British Bases

*LD2107120692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0851 GMT 21 Jul 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Voronkov]

[Text] London July 21 TASS—Russian military experts numbering nine began the inspection of British bases and other installations on Tuesday [21 July] after the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] came into force late last week.

The aim of the inspection is to get convinced that Britain abides by ceilings set by the agreement limiting the number of tanks, warplanes, helicopter gunships, artillery pieces and infantry combat vehicles for treaty participants.

Under the treaty, the British Army may have 1,015 tanks, 3,176 infantry combat vehicles, 900 warplanes and 384 gunships. Russian military specialists will conduct inspections mostly in the country's eastern part. The British Defence Ministry announced that it would help the inspectors in every way.

Black Sea Fleet Commander's Future 'Very Vague'

MK2207113192 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY
KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 17 Jul 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Will Black Sea Fleet Commander Be Dismissed?"]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned that a closed discussion of Russia's stand on the future partition of the Black Sea Fleet took place in the Russian Supreme Soviet yesterday afternoon. This conference was chaired by Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

One of the items under discussion was the fate of Admiral Igor Kasatonov, present commander of the Black Sea Fleet. The Supreme Soviet Presidium has received proposals from a number of the Russian parliamentary deputies for Adm. Kasatonov's dismissal from the post as someone hindering the establishment of normal, civilized relations with independent Ukraine.

The future of the Black Sea Fleet commander remains very vague at the time of this issue's publication.

Ukraine Continues Claiming Control of Warships

PM2307101892 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Jul 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer over video of warships at sea] Today the latest round of talks on the Black Sea Fleet was held in Moscow. Ukraine continues to lay claim to all the ships located in its ports. [Video shows warships at sea, one of them firing a missile, and a demonstrator putting up a poster which reads: "The Black Sea Fleet, Sevastopol, and the Crimea are indivisible!"]

'Explosive' Black Sea Fleet Situation Viewed**Ukraine 'Privatizing' Fleet**

LD2207164192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1345 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Statement by Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, at a news conference on 22 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] As a result of unilateral actions by the Ministry of Defense and an operational group of the Ukraine Navy, the situation in the Black Sea Fleet is becoming increasingly explosive. As an analysis of recent events has shown, the Ukrainian side has in effect chosen the path of unilaterally privatizing the Black Sea Fleet in circumvention of accords that have been reached and the continuing process of talks on the Fleet. An organizational group of the Ukrainian Navy has in effect shifted to the practice of seizing vessels from the fleet's combat force, seizing subunits from the fleet's infrastructure,

and is attempting to get not only personnel, but also command posts to swear allegiance.

The latest cases of appropriation of the commandant's office of a garrison and a patrol ship threaten the true role and responsibilities and powers of the parliamentary delegations of Ukraine in monitoring compliance with the moratorium. Thus, the actions of the Ministry of Defense and the organizational group of the Ukrainian Navy and also of other bodies are aimed at drawing servicemen into a further political game. The latest act of the theft of the patrol vessel has aroused a sharply adverse reaction and indignation in the Fleet. The commanders of 22 vessels of a different formation [word indistinct] of the Black Sea Fleet have demanded that decisive measures be taken in response to the act of privatizing the vessel.

Such acts by the Ukrainian side could result in a different practical implementation of decisions of the already tradition council of officers' assemblies of the Black Sea Fleet, on the independent formation of the Russian Navy, and the independent raising of the St. Andrew's flag on vessels.

In spite of the destructive actions by all those bodies and leaders, the Military Council of the Black Sea Fleet continues to hope for the possible prudence of their leaders and calls on the personnel of the Black Sea Fleet to combine restraint and self-discipline and to refrain for the time being from calling for the St. Andrew's flags to be raised and taking the Russian oath.

At the same time, we intend to take the most decisive, appropriate measures to stabilize the situation in the Fleet, ruling out, however, any violation of the accords reached.

Kasatonov on 'Provocation'

LD2207170292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1445 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Roman Zadunayskiy and Yefim Shvartsman]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 22 Jul—Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, has described the actions of the commander and part of the crew of a patrol ship of the Crimean naval base, who "bolted" to Odessa yesterday, as a provocation aimed at undermining the Dagomys agreements between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine. The admiral intends to make this statement today to journalists in Sevastopol, the Black Sea Fleet's main base. Your ITAR-TASS correspondents learned this from authoritative sources.

The statement also notes that the fugitives acted in an unworthy manner, at a time when the fleet commander was away. The Ukrainian side, Kasatonov notes, is using propaganda pressure and lavish promises of material benefits to brainwash personnel of the fleet, trying to persuade them to transfer to the Ukrainian national

navy. After actions to have individual subunits of the Black Sea Fleet take an oath, Kiev is now resorting to "stealing" and even rebasing entire ships, the admiral's press statement says. [passage omitted]

At the end of last month, Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk agreed on a moratorium on any actions concerning the status of the Black Sea Fleet at their meeting in Dagomys.

At the same time, as your ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from reliable sources, Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, commander of the Ukrainian Navy, believes that the "fugitive" patrol ship should become part of the national navy. According to reports from Odessa, the situation on the guard ship is calm. The crew was expected to have a meeting with journalists this afternoon.

Captain of Ship Explains Actions

LD2207211292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent S. Fatayev] Almost nine decades since the famous Potemkin, a new mutinous ship—patrol intelligence-gathering ship No. 815 [SKR-815]—cast anchor by the Odessa coast. Having suddenly left the moorage in Donuzlav of the Crimean Navy base, the ship hoisted a Ukrainian state flag already on the way to Odessa. Today military procurators, members of various commissions and our fellow journalists met the crew, a considerable part of which took the oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people as long ago as January. It turned out that this unsanctioned march was unexpected by everyone.

[Begin recording] [S. Nastenka, crew captain] The decision was made six months ago. I was forced to do this. Finally, I have made the step.

[Fatayev] Who forced you to?

[Nastenko] The fleet command, but not only the fleet command, the brigade command. All actions, in my opinion, were directed only at provoking this action. I could not act differently. The unsanctioned march by the ship to the Odessa port, I think, will accelerate the process of resolving the Black Sea Fleet issue. [end recording]

[Fatayev] At a news conference in Odessa today, Boris Kozhin, commander of the Ukrainian Navy, said that he could see no violations of agreements made at the talks on the Black Sea Fleet in the actions of the SKR-715 [number as heard: video shows 815] and that, in his opinion, in these conditions the crew could not act differently. Meanwhile, the mutinous patrol intelligence-gathering ship is moored in the military harbor of the Odessa naval trade port. [Video shows view of ship, crew members talking to journalists, and news conference.]

Kasatonov To Follow Dagomys Accord

LD2207174592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1709 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol July 22 TASS—Black Sea Fleet commander would have had the runaway ship intercepted had he been in Sevastopol when the rebel vessel fled from its CIS base in Donuzlav to the Ukrainian port of Odessa.

"Had I been here, not on a business trip, I would have not allowed the ship to escape, I would have it intercepted and returned to the base", he told reporters here on Wednesday [22 July].

Kasatonov was in Moscow on Tuesday attending a meeting of top military commanders with the Russian president.

This was "a super-serious" action, Kasatonov said and accused the Ukrainian Defence Ministry and the navy command of planned, provocative actions undermining the Dagomys agreements.

Members of the fleet's Military Council told reporters that the Ukrainian Defence Ministry was not interested in stopping short the unlawful actions of the crew of the rebel ship. However, they admitted that initially the Ukrainian Defence Minister, Konstantin Morozov, supported the Black Sea Fleet command in its actions to intercept the ship.

Kasatonov stated that he would strictly abide by the Dagomys agreement and will use all legal instruments to prevent unilateral actions aimed at splitting the fleet until a political decision on its fate is adopted. The commander said he will resort to all the necessary measures to stop short various provocations in future.

Meeting To Discuss Incident 22 Jul

LD2207194492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1822 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS—The situation at the Black Sea Fleet is acquiring an explosive character because of unilateral actions of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry and an organisational group of the Ukrainian Navy, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, said at a meeting with Crimean public and journalists on Wednesday.

According to reports ITAR-TASS received from the press centre of the Black Sea Fleet, Kasatonov declared that recent events show Ukraine has practically embarked upon the course to privatise the Black Sea Fleet unilaterally, evasive of the achieved agreements and notwithstanding the continuing talks on the Black Sea Fleet.

According to Kasatonov, these actions are increasingly acquiring a character of "fist fights", a factor of force is used when servicemen are taking an oath of allegiance, with special task force units involved.

Kasatonov said that practically all bodies, starting from Ukrainian security services to the organisational group of the Ukrainian navy established in violation of the existing moratorium are involved in the process.

Actions of taking a new oath of allegiance are carried out by unsuitable methods and pursue absurd aims, after being secretly prepared, as a rule, in the absence of the Black Sea Fleet commander.

Propagandistic fraud, promises, threats, offers of hypothetical apartments and high salaries are widely used, Kasatonov said.

The Ukrainian naval organisational group has started the practice of "snatching" warships from the combat fleet.

Promises made by the commander of the Ukrainian navy to stabilise the situation at the Black Sea Fleet turned out to be a mere slogan, while uncontrolled provocative actions of subordinates of Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin disavow him as a commander, Kasatonov pointed out.

The pace at which orders are signed on the inclusion of newly-sworn in servicemen into the Ukrainian national navy prove that both the Ukrainian defence minister and the commander of the Ukrainian navy are involved in the actions, Kasatonov said.

The incidents of "acquisition" of a garrison's commandment office and a warship makes one doubt the real role and the authority of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation on monitoring the moratorium.

Thus, actions of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry and the organisational group of the Ukrainian navy, as well as those of "supervising" bodies are aimed at involving servicemen in political games, prevent the solution of the fate of the Black Sea Fleet by way of negotiations, push the Black Sea Fleet to an area beyond control with fatal consequences.

The last action of hijacking a border guard ship caused a negative reaction and indignation among the fleet's servicemen.

Commanders of 22 ships, units of the Black Sea Fleet demanded to take resolute measures in response to the act of "privatisation" of the ship.

Admiral Kasatonov warned that similar actions taken by the Ukrainian side might entail a practical implementation of a decision adopted by the Coordinative Council of the Black Sea Fleet Officers to independently form the Russian fleet and hoist Andreyev's flags over ships.

Despite destructive actions by the above-mentioned bodies, the commander and the Military Council of the

Black Sea Fleet continue to believe in the wisdom of their leaders, and call upon the Black Sea Fleet personnel to preserve constraint and self-control, and so far to refrain from flying Andreyev's flag and swearing allegiance to Russia, Kasatonov said.

"At the same time we intend to take resolute and adequate measures to stabilise the situation, excluding any violations of the achieved agreements," Kasatonov pointed out.

On Wednesday, leaders of the Coordinative Council of Officers of the Black Sea Fleet met with representative of the Ukrainian president Ivan Yermakov at the main base of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol.

The participants in the meeting discussed actions to prevent violations of the moratorium on unilateral actions towards the Black Sea Fleet.

Captain, Crew Members Meet Press

LD2207194892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1839 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Vladimir Novak]

[Text] Odessa July 22 TASS—"We were ready for any violent actions on the part of those who pursued us but we ourselves did not intend to resort to arms," Sergey Nastenka, captain of the "rebel" coastguard ship, said at a meeting of journalists with the crew members of the Black Sea Fleet ship which left its Commonwealth-controlled naval base in the Crimean Peninsula for Odessa without any permission.

Sailors said the fleet command made an attempt to impede the vessel's movement. It was pursued by three armed military ships and an air cushion boat. The latter approached the coastguard ship and fired three warning volleys in its direction from small-caliber guns. In order to avoid any undesirable accidents, Captain Sergey Nastenka ordered all who were free from keeping watch to stay down in the hold. Fortunately, everything turned out all right. Soon the ship passed neutral waters and entered the area of water by the Odessa port where it weighed anchor. Flown on the stern of the coastguard ship is the flag of the ex-Soviet navy, and raised up to the flagstaff are Ukrainian colors. All service on the ship is going on as usual, all ammunition is intact, no accidents were reported.

Navy Not To Charge Crew

OW2207192492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1849 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commander of the Ukrainian navy, Boris Kozhin, speaking in Odessa, says no criminal charges will be brought against the crew of a patrol boat which arrived in Odessa under a Ukrainian flag after defecting

its port of call in Crimea yesterday. He said the decision was of the crew's own choosing and that it would face only administrative punishment.

In the meantime, the crew of the warship, now moored at Odessa port, carries its duty as usual.

One other warship which chased it almost to Odessa left for Sevastopol on Wednesday afternoon [22 July].

Ukrainian sources say that a hovercraft sent to hunt down the defecting warship had repeatedly opened machine gunfire across its bow, while other warships dropped cables along its course to try to put its engines out of order.

Our correspondents say the crew complained about continued harassments by naval base authorities for its loyalty to Ukraine.

'Firing Practice' in Baltics 1 Aug-29 Sep

LD2207124792 Berlin ADN in German 1042 GMT
22 Jul 92

[Text] Wismar (ADN)—The Western Group of Russian forces has announced that there will be firing practice lasting almost two months in the Baltics off Rerik in the Wismar district. From 1 August until 29 September—each Tuesday to Thursday between 0700 and 2400, and Fridays from 0700 to 1500—for safety reasons it is not permitted to overfly or sail through the excluded zone north of the Wustrow Peninsula, a communique from the CIS troops says today. The air firing [luftschiessen] will take place under the regulations of the "treaty between the USSR and the FRG on the conditions of the limited stay and planned withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany."

Strategic Forces Chief, Generals on Draft

PM2207142792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 21 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Dolinin on interview with Strategic Missile Forces Directorate Chief Major General V. Putilin followed by report by Anatoliy Stasovskiy on interview with General Staff Main Directorate Chief Lieutenant General Gennadiy Bochayev; places and dates not given: "Draft-92: The Number of People Wanting to Join the Strategic Missiles Forces Has Fallen Somewhat"]

[Text] The spring draft in the CIS republics was due to end by mid-July, but forces and fleets have so far only received 70 percent of the recruits they require. Maybe the situation is better in the strategic forces' units, which, as is known, provide security for all the CIS countries and which should get young men from these states?

"So far only the Volga-Urals and Transbaykal Military Districts and Turkmenia have completed the draft selection schedules for the Strategic Missile Forces," Major General V. Putilin, chief of the Strategic Missile Forces

Mobilization Organization Directorate, said. "The work is a long way from completion in the Russian Federation and in Kazakhstan. The North Caucasus Military District has provided only 60 percent of its quota of new recruits. In Tajikistan, where the quota is 6,500, they have not started selecting for the Missiles Forces, although the draft has been completed in the republic."

"The existing law on the general liability to military service in the CIS states is virtually defunct. As is known, they all have their own laws that determine length of service and the procedures involved. Often they conflict with the accords on the status of and procedure for manning the Strategic Forces. Everyone wants to keep his own draft contingent close to home. This is not always acceptable as far as the missile forces are concerned. According to the agreement on the Strategic Forces, the republics have Missile Forces draft quotas, but they are more concerned at local level with keeping their own armies up to strength.

"The shortage of conscripts is also due to the fact that in the sovereign states too, many people are being granted a deferment, notwithstanding the well-known demographic problems.

"In all, the Missile Forces have received only a little over 60 percent of the young soldiers they require, although the battle teams should be fully manned by now, but it appears the commanders are not in a position to do this at the moment—they are having to do something they have not been accustomed to doing in the past: go into the CIS countries searching for recruits. The units are simply overstretched. They are having to temporarily cut the number of duty shifts because of the shortage of people and encroach on the interests of special forces and rear services, who also have harvest, vegetable procurement, and winter preparation responsibilities.

"In the very near future it will be necessary to establish the legal basis for the Strategic Forces' implementation of their tasks. They provide security for all the Commonwealth countries, so concern for them must be universal and all-embracing."

[Stasovskiy report] In some sections of the media there have been signs of alarm that the 1992 draft campaign might be ruined.

Here is what Lieutenant General Gennadiy Bochayev, chief of the Russian Federation General Staff Main Directorate, told our correspondent:

"I can confidently say that the draft has not been ruined; it has taken place normally, according to plan. Of course, you may say there have been draft problems in certain regions, North Caucasus, for example, but the political situation is entirely to blame in this case."

Finally, a few figures to corroborate what the general said. In Russia as a whole the draft plan has been fulfilled by 93 percent. In the districts the figures are as follows:

Leningrad—95; Volga-Urals—98; Transbaykal—101; North Caucasus—72 (it is expected to reach 85 percent by 1 August).

Trade Union Chief Optimistic About Reforms

LD2207120792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1112 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS—"For the first time in months within the CIS it has become a realistic possibility to speed up reforms and ease the lives of millions through joint efforts," Vladimir Scherbakov, representative of the CIS Confederation of Trade Unions, told heads of government, parliament, political parties and organisations from the CIS.

The trade union leader attributes these changes for the better in part to the meeting in Moscow where CIS leaders "demonstrated their desire to coordinate their efforts in economic sphere." Scherbakov also cited the optimistic results of the Munich G-7 meeting. "The governments of the West believe economic reform in the CIS cannot be turned back and they are ready to show support for this transformation," he said.

"Not to take advantage of this chance would be to place ourselves on the threshold of economic catastrophe and widespread poverty," Scherbakov said.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Jul

LD2307053192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0432 GMT 23 Jul 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 23 TASS—Today's newspapers focus on the agreement on the principles of the settlement of the armed conflict in the Dniester Republic of Moldova signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Moldovan President Mircea Snegur in Moscow.

President Yeltsin insisted that the Dniester conflict be resolved by means similar to those employed in South Ossetia, that is by using joint forces from Moldova, Russia and the Dniester Republic to disengage the warring sides, the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA said.

The agreement urges the conflicting factions to cease fire and withdraw their troops from the conflict zone within seven days, the military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA said.

Meanwhile, the situation remains tense in Moldova, the trade union daily TRUD said. The newspaper publishes a

statement by 500 soldiers demanding a resignation of Moldovan Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli. The statement describes his appointment to the post as a "coup staged by conservative neo-Boishevik forces in the parliament."

The soldiers also demanded Moldova's secession from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publish reports about the results of Yeltsin's meeting with the heads of local administrations and military commanders on July 21 to discuss social welfare problems facing the military in the Republic.

Yeltsin blasted regional authorities for violating his decree of February 19, urging them to provide officers with housing, and warned that it "may cause a social explosion." Yeltsin signed a decree on mass state investments in the construction of housing for the military and said he will take severe measures, including dismissal, against violators.

The youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and other newspapers report about Yeltsin's visit to the Krasnodar territory, highlighting his statement that about 20 mobile units, which were dispatched on Tuesday to guard the Russian border with the Baltic states, have begun establishing border installations in keeping with presidential decree of March 13. The decree envisages establishing customs border with the former Soviet republics which refused to sign an agreement on the principles of customs policy.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an interview with Russian Vice-Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha, who oversees industry, transport, communications and conversion projects.

"Some believe that the Gaydar's reform imposes financial restrictions for the sake of restrictions, some kind of economising. But I'm convinced that this is the measure which has to force us all to work. Indeed, administrative levers no longer exist," Khizha said.

TRUD carries an interview with Aleksandr Vladislavtsev, co-chairman of the newly created party "Union 'Renovation'."

"Russia will never break up. Russia will remain a great power. Every sober-minded person knows that 'a Russian apocalypse' may plunge us into a chaos of a 'new' totalitarianism and authoritarianism, and lead to wanton bloodshed," Vladislavtsev said.

The daily PRAVDA and other newspapers carry reports about the Constitutional Court hearings on the legality of Yeltsin's decrees banning the Communist Party.

International Affairs

New 'Comprehensive Union' Created With Belarus

MK2207130392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 22 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Portnikov under the "Integration" rubric: "Russia and Belarus Create New Union?"]

[Text] After six hours of tiring coordination Byelarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, Russian Federation Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, and leaders of both republics' ministries signed a package of documents which the Byelarusian premier described as a "comprehensive union." "Neither I myself nor my predecessors ever succeeded in signing such an agreement as the one we are signing today," Kebich emphasized. He urged journalists to draw special attention to the document on military cooperation as being most important. The Byelarusian premier recalled that this aspect was absent from the interstate treaties concluded by the Russian Federation with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan earlier.

In addition to military union, the Russian-Byelarusian accords embrace very broad cooperation in the economy—even including setting up an interrepublic economic coordination council. Yegor Gaydar concurred that the agreement is a step in the direction of a confederation within the CIS framework (Kebich said "tiny little steps") and expressed hope verging on confidence that some CIS countries—Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, above all—will join this union.

This statement by the head of the Russian Government takes the accords reached between the Russian Federation and Byelarus beyond bilateral contacts, as it were. Answering a question from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent as to whether the Russian-Ukrainian "reconciliation" at Dagomys had influenced the conclusion of the Russian-Byelarusian union, Premier Kebich "unequivocally declared"—yes. It obviously became clear to the Byelarusian leaders after Dagomys that there simply is no alternative to rapprochement with Russia, but Kebich refused to answer a question about the possibility of Ukraine's subscribing to the Russian-Byelarusian accords.

Russia and Byelarus also agreed, according to V. Kebich, "on the joint closure of certain borders." To all appearances, it may be a question, above all, of the borders with the Baltic countries, which will now have to regard Byelarus as a definite ally of Russia (although the Byelarusian premier remarked to journalists that the signing of agreements with Russia does not mean that Byelarus has abandoned its policy of equidistance from its neighbors).

'Text' of Peace Agreement on Dniester

AU2307072392 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network
in Romanian 2000 GMT 21 Jul 92

["Text" of the agreement on settling the armed conflict in the Dniester region of the Republic of Moldova signed in Moscow on 21 July; relayed by Romania's Radio Iasi—recorded]

[Text] Desiring a total cease-fire as soon as possible and a peaceful solution to the armed conflict in the Dniester, reaffirming their attachment to the principles of the UN Charter and the CSCE, and welcoming the agreement in principle signed by the president of the Republic of Moldova and the president of the Russian Federation on 3 July 1992, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation agreed on the following:

Article I

1. Upon signing this agreement, the sides involved in this conflict take it upon themselves to take every possible measure to completely cease fire and any military action against each other.

2. Once the cease-fire is implemented, the sides will proceed to withdraw their military units and other military formations, military equipment, and arms, within seven days. This disengagement of forces aims at setting up a security zone between the two sides. The concrete coordinates of this security zone will be established in a special protocol of the sides engaged in implementing this agreement.

Article II

1. In order to guarantee control over implementing measures stipulated in Article I and to guarantee security in the aforementioned zone, a joint control commission will be set up consisting of representatives of the three sides engaged in settling the conflict. In its activity, the commission will use groups of military observers established in accordance with all the previous agreements, including the four-way agreements. The Control Commission will proceed to carry out its tasks as stipulated by this agreement within seven days from the signing of this agreement.

2. Each side engaged in the activity of the aforementioned commission will nominate its representatives, and the Control Commission will be based in Bendery.

3. In order to carry out the aforementioned tasks, the Control Commission will receive military units made up of volunteers from the sides engaged in implementing this agreement. The deployment of these units and the use of them to guarantee the cease-fire agreement and security in the conflict region will be carried out in accordance with the decision of the Control Commission on the basis of consensus. A separate protocol stipulates the numerical composition, status, and conditions of deployment and withdrawal of military units.

4. In the event of failure to respect the conditions of this agreement, the Control Commission will examine the circumstances in which the violations took place and will take urgent measures to restore peace and order and to avoid such violations in the future.

5. The activity of the Control Commission and of the military forces subordinated to this commission will be financed by all the sides involved.

Article III

1. Given the special complexity of the situation, as the residence of the Control Commission, the city of Bendery is hereby declared a special security zone guaranteed by the military units of the sides engaged in implementing this agreement. The Control Commission will guarantee order in Bendery together with the police units, which have limited personnel. The administrative and economic activity in Bendery will be guaranteed by the existing self-governing bodies and, if necessary, in cooperation with the Control Commission.

Article IV

1. Units of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation deployed in Moldova will strictly respect neutrality. Both sides take it upon themselves to respect neutrality and to refrain from any unlawful actions against the military equipment and personnel of this army. Problems connected with the status of this army and procedure and schedule of its withdrawal will be solved through negotiations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova.

Article V

1. The sides in this conflict regard the use of any sanctions or blockade as unacceptable. In this context, all the obstacles hindering the passage of goods, services, and people will be eliminated immediately, and adequate measures will be taken to abrogate the state of emergency on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

2. The sides involved in this conflict will start immediate negotiations on solving the problems connected with the return of refugees to their homes, the supply of aid to the population of areas that suffered from the conflict, and restoration of damaged economic units and housing.

3. The sides involved in this conflict will take all the necessary measures to enable the free flow of international humanitarian aid to the area.

Article VI

1. In order to disseminate objective information about the situation in the area, the sides will create a joint press center subordinated to the Control Commission.

Article VII

1. The sides involved in this conflict start from the premise that the measures contained in this agreement

represent an important component of the process of settling the conflict by peaceful political means.

Article VIII

1. This agreement will go into effect immediately after signing. The operation of this treaty may be suspended on the basis of a joint agreement between the sides or when one of the sides renounces it, which would imply the end of the activity of the Control Commission and the military units subordinated to this commission.

This agreement has been formulated in Moscow, on 21 July 1992, in two copies, in Romanian and Russian, and both texts are authentic.

The agreement was signed by President Mircea Snegur on behalf of the Republic of Moldova, and Boris Yeltsin on behalf of the Russian Federation.

Present at the signing ceremony were: First Deputy Minister of State Valerian Zverciuc; First Deputy Interior Minister Victor Platanu; Ion Cebuc, head of the representation of the Republic of Moldova in Moscow, and other official persons on behalf of the Republic of Moldova; Deputy Russian President Aleksandr Rutskoy; Prime Minister [as heard] Yegor Gaydar, State Counselor Gennadiy Burbulis, and other official persons, on behalf of the Russian Federation.

Also present at the ceremony were representatives of the Dniester areas of the Republic of Moldova.

After signing the document, President Mircea Snegur and President Boris Yeltsin answered journalists' questions and expressed their hope that this first step in the direction of settling the armed conflict in the Dniester areas of the Republic of Moldova will be effective and will be followed by other actions leading to the overall solution of this conflict as soon as possible.

Moldova Chooses Moscow as Main Ally in CIS

*MK2207121592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
21 Jul 92 p 2*

[Report by Vladimir Strakhov: "Union Within Commonwealth Framework"]

[Text] Byelorussian Premier V. Kebich has described as unique yesterday's meeting between Russian and Byelorussian Government delegations in Moscow's President Hotel. Several economic and military agreements defining further relations between the two republics were concluded during it. Both sides agreed to establish a unified credit and financial system and a unified ruble zone. In addition, a treaty on the coordination of activity in the military sphere and an agreement on the strategic forces temporarily stationed on Byelorussian territory were signed.

The meeting showed that the Byelorussian position, which for a long time seemed unclear, has at last been defined. Minsk has chosen Moscow as its main economic

and, probably, military-political ally in the Commonwealth. In principle, this can be accounted for if only by the fact that 70 percent of Byelorussian enterprises produce output specially for the Russian market. The economy of Byelorussia is strongly integrated with and geared to its eastern neighbor. As a result of yesterday's meeting the two republics will implement a concerted budget, tax, and monetary-credit policy.

Further on Agreement Signed With Latvia

LD2207192892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Report by correspondent Ye. Revelskaya; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] An agreement on mutual obligations in connection with the introduction of the Latvian ruble was signed between Russia and Latvia today. Moreover, documents on the procedure for payment of mutual deliveries of goods were drawn up. The bilateral talks, which took place with the participation of experts, moved forward, in many ways, Russian-Latvian cooperation which has been stuck in a rut.

[Begin Gaydar recording] Even the difficult times which we are going through together should not be used by demagogues and adventurers to cause our people to quarrel. [end recording]

According to the statement by Yegor Gaydar, the document signed is a good basis for the civilized reconstruction of financial relations between the two countries. Prices will be equal to world prices and deliveries will be binding and on time.

During the talks, a fundamentally new understanding on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Latvia was reached. Russia will implement it as quickly as possible but the Latvian side agrees to the overall solution of a whole number of problems connected with the status of our troops and also with the preservation on the territory of Latvia of two or three of Russia's strategic military facilities.

Gaydar Addresses Journalists

OW2207180692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's acting prime minister Yegor Gaydar and Latvia's prime minister Ivars Godmanis met in Moscow Wednesday [22 July] to sign an agreement on the countries' mutual commitments resulting from the Latvia's introducing its ruble.

At a brief press conference that followed, Yegor Gaydar told the journalists that apart from the above agreement, the parties were also preparing an agreement whereby

the countries would reciprocally adopt the status of most favored trade partners, and an agreement on the mutual accounting procedures.

Both premiers characterized the talks as "constructive" and "useful", noting that the documents signed by them provide "a good beginning at the time when both Russia and Latvia live through a very hard period".

Ivars Godmanis remarked that the Latvian government fully supported the reforms conducted by Russia. In his words, the process of economic reforms is, certainly, not a "sprint race, but it is an enduring marathon where the runners can succeed provided the countries preserve democratic orientation and avoid extremism." As regards the other aspects of his talks with Yegor Gaydar, Mr Godmanis said that they were mostly focused on the issues of the former Soviet property on the territory of Latvia, as well as the issues associated with the financial support of the Russian troops withdrawal from the republic's territory.

In an interview to the journalists, Russia's deputy foreign minister Vitaliy Churkin noted that the Russian side had presented "an essentially new position as regards the troops withdrawal which could be realized in optimally compressed time terms if the sides adopted a so-called package solution to a number of problems relating to this issue".

"We have to define the status of the Russian troops on the territory of Latvia and the other Baltic states and reach an agreement as regards preserving some of Russia's strategic installations on the territories of these countries for longer periods of time along with the solution of the Russian servicemen's social constraints". In the words of Vitaliy Churkin, the Latvian side has agreed in principle to adopt such an approach to this problem.

Gaydar, Godmanis Discuss Minorities

OW2207184692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1748 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at a press conference after today's meeting between Yegor Gaydar and Ivars Godmanis in Moscow, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin said the two statesmen had extensively discussed human rights issues. The Latvians, Churkin pointed out, had vowed to stick to European standards in drafting relevant legislation.

He said Latvia had also promised to give its support to the idea of setting up an office of high commissioner on national minorities within the framework of the Council of Baltic States. A group consisting of Russian and Latvian diplomats will be formed to do the preparation work for it.

In addition to that the Latvian parliament is going to organize a tour of Latvia next month for members of the Russian parliament wishing to investigate the situation on the spot.

Yeltsin Aide Petrov Cited on Kurils Policy

PM2207151192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Jul 92 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS report under the "South Kurils" rubric: "The Problem of the Territories Cannot Be Resolved in One Attempt"]

[Text] Russia recognizes the existence of territorial problems in its relations with Japan; however, it must not be thought that the South Kurils issue can be resolved in one attempt. Russian Presidential Administration Leader Yuriy Petrov stated this in an interview with the newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN.

"The purpose of President Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Tokyo this September," he stressed, "is the normalization of bilateral relations." However, the two sides' positions regarding ways to achieve this are at variance. Japan insists that all the disputed islands be handed over at the same time. Moreover, it is linking the development of bilateral economic cooperation with a settlement of the territorial problem. Russia, however, is proceeding on the basis that a solution can be found that is based on strengthening mutual trust through the development of political and economic ties, friendship, and cooperation.

"If we resort to changing borders," Yuriy Petrov noted, "this could set a kind of precedent and cause a whole series of secondary problems. Bearing in mind the existence of 'hot spots' in Moldova, South Ossetia, and Nagorno-Karabakh, right now is not the best time to create a new hotbed of tension." At the present time, Yuriy Petrov announced, the Russian leadership is studying possible proposals that could be put to the Japanese side in connection with the territorial problem.

Ambassador Objects to Kurils Report

MK2207130492 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 22 Jul 92 p 1

[Letter from People's Deputy V.P. Lukin: "Russian Ambassador to United States Denies"]

[Text] In connection with the appearance in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of a report (according to the newspaper's information, it came from Russian Federation People's Deputy I. Andronov) on some document signed by myself supposedly talking about the need to hand over the Kuril Islands to Japan, I would like to declare the following:

1. I have not signed any document about the handover of the Kuril Islands to Japan.

2. The very principle of making closed documents public for purposes of political self-publicity (whether they really exist or are fabricated) attests to extreme irresponsibility in persons involved in the process of making state decisions.

3. I expressed my position on the question of the Kuril Islands perfectly openly and clearly at the time of the hearings in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet of Nationalities. Its essence, briefly, boils down to the need to reach a compromise on this question. A necessary condition for this is the attainment of internal political concord and the realization of all the procedures provided for in law. As is known, under Russian legislation any changes to the Russian Federation's borders can be made only on the basis of a decision in a nationwide referendum, with subsequent approval by the Congress of People's Deputies.

Memorandum of Intent Cited

OW2307042492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT
23 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, July 23 KYODO—Russia has drafted a secret official memorandum of intent to return disputed islands to Japan, a Russian parliamentary official said Wednesday [22 July].

Iona Andronov, deputy chairman of the Committee for International Affairs and Economic Relations of the Russian parliament, said the secret memorandum was presented to President Boris Yeltsin on December 18 last year, the Moscow-based INTERFAX NEWS AGENCY reported.

Andronov was quoted as saying the memorandum bore the signatures of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Vladimir Lukin, former chairman of the parliamentary committee and currently Russian ambassador to the United States.

The memorandum is currently in the hands of Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, the report said.

Andronov called on Kunadze to make a legal disclosure of the contents of the secret memorandum to journalists and in this way throw full light on the subject, INTERFAX said.

Japan maintains that it will not conclude a peace treaty with Moscow unless Russia returns four islands off Hokkaido—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai islets—occupied by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Japanese Bankers To Ease Debt Repayment

PM2207143992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Debt Maneuvers. Tokyo Seeks New Ways of Conducting Trade With the CIS"]

[Text] Tokyo—The decision in principle, reached after great difficulties in Munich, to reschedule debt repayments on state loans has loosened the debt noose, but only partly because in addition to so-called "official loans," there are also hefty obligations to private commercial banks, who are also owed interest and return payments on their promissory notes.

Japanese newspapers report that the total debt of the USSR's heirs to Japanese private banks and credit associations exceeds 300 billion yen (more than \$2 billion). This sum is "scattered" among 11 commercial and three credit banks, which have not heard from the former Soviet expanses since the beginning of this year.

After Munich, YOMIURI reports, rays of light began to shine in the debt "gloom" that had settled over the private banking structures. After a protracted period of total silence from debtors, the possibility is being sounded of beginning a series of negotiations with the commercial and credit banks on rescheduling payments. On the one hand the Japanese are reassured by this, since debt obligations are thereby confirmed, as it were; but on the other hand, the new time frames remain unclear, since there is a big difference between a postponement "in principle" and a postponement to a specific date. At the same time there is no expectation of them becoming more specific. A spokesman for the Bank of Tokyo, for example, stated that "the economic situation in the CIS is so bad that to count on a rapid recovery is hopeless."

Judging by information circulating in Tokyo financial circles, the unresolved debt problems of the former Union will most likely force bankers to hold an unprecedented event—a sort of international forum to discuss the sensitive problem. Although it is not difficult to forecast the decision of such a forum in principle—most likely, YOMIURI notes, private banks will have to swallow the same pill as the state financial institutions connected with the former USSR, and reschedule payments, as was stipulated in Munich.

The picture is none too bright, but not all black all the same. Despite the debt "flops," new loans are nevertheless unavoidable, otherwise trade will simply collapse. New versions are needed, and one was found recently. The KYODO news agency reports that after exhausting negotiations and showdowns over the issue of \$360 million which former Soviet foreign trade organizations owe to the Japanese for imports, the sides reached a compromise—with the agreement of the Japanese and Russian Governments, a decision has been made for the Bank of Tokyo to allocate targeted credit to the Central Bank of Russia to repay chronic debts to nine trading corporations. The details of this deal, including the deadline for repayment and the size of the interest, so far remain secret, although the agency writes that all the formalities should be sorted out by the end of July, when the signing of the appropriate document on this matter will take place.

In the opinion of local specialists, this "debt maneuver" looks like becoming the form that economic contact between Japan and the CIS countries will take in the short term. It would appear that the central three conditions of future loans will be that they be granted for the maintenance of exports, in small doses, and under government guarantees.

Delay in Granting U.S. Aid to Russia Viewed

PM2307084092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "'Armored Blankets' Received. So Far That Is All. Americans Continue To Delay Russian Aid Grant"]

[Excerpts] New York—The \$400 million which the U.S. Congress allocated to the countries of the former Union to assist the practical implementation of disarmament programs still remains in U.S. banks.

According to a statement delivered by the State Department on Tuesday [21 July], agreements on how to "place" the money have so far been reached only on approximately \$120 million. Only a trifling sum has actually been released: On 23 June a consignment of so-called "armored blankets"—presumably for use in ensuring safety during the dismantling and transportation of nuclear warheads—arrived in Moscow.

Talks are being held with Russia, and also with Ukraine and Byelarus, on what to do with the rest of the money. Because the status of Kazakhstan as a state subject to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons was determined only recently, talks with Alma-Ata have not yet even begun, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler explained.

Tutwiler especially stressed that the U.S. Administration is "firmly resolved to release the money as soon as specific action projects are agreed."

How the funds already authorized are used will undoubtedly be taken into consideration in some measure or other by Congress during the debates on new aid appropriations to Russia, that is to say on the Freedom Support Bill. I can by no means rule out that voices may be heard on Capitol Hill arguing that this money could be used with considerably greater efficacy and efficiency toward the solution of domestic problems, and that, consequently, it is perhaps not a good idea to rush to keep allocating more money to the former Union. [passage omitted]

On Tuesday I spoke with Congressman Joseph Kennedy and asked him for his appraisal of the mood on Capitol Hill, where only four weeks ago Boris Yeltsin was given a rapturous and enthusiastic welcome, but where today, it would appear, there is no hurry at all to transform this rapture into the immediate adoption of the aid bill for Russia. Among the factors holding up the bill, the Democrat congressman mentioned, although only by

way of a hint, the lack of drive on the part of the Bush administration, which is not putting the necessary pressure on Republicans in Congress and not persuading them to support the bill. "We would not like to find ourselves in a situation where we ourselves vote 'for' and then see that the Republicans have not done the same," Kennedy said.

Why don't the Democrats want the vote to turn out this way (let me remind readers that the Democrats are the majority party in the House of Representatives and could theoretically adopt the bill on their own, without waiting for the Republicans)? Because in November they have to answer to voters who, judging by their recent mood, would most likely consider the Republicans' position more reasonable and ask the Democrats "Why are you being so generous toward Russia?"

Grachev Visits British Army Bases 22 Jul

LD2207205692 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
2037 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Dmitriy Voskobonikov]

[Text] London July 23 TASS—The visiting Russian Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, on Wednesday [22 July] paid a visit to the Aldershot rehabilitation centre for servicemen transferred to the reserve. Here he had an opportunity to acquaint himself with an undoubtedly interesting British programme which enables retired Armed Forces personnel to find themselves a new civilian profession. This problem is quite acute in Russia, and sources close to the Russian delegation informed *ITAR-TASS* that our Armed Forces are prepared to adopt any useful experience.

Later Grachev arrived in Farnborough, boarded a British Air Force C-130 "Hercules" transport plane and watched parachute jumps of the British airborne troops.

The deputy commander of the Russian airborne troops Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Zuyev joined the British paratroopers and did not have any problems in the Farnborough sky.

Kozyrev, Bulgarian Counterpart on Relations

PM2207135592 Moscow *PRAVDA in Russian*
21 Jul 92 p 7

[Report by Leonid Kuznetsov: "Crisis in Russian Policy in the Balkans"]

[Text] Sofia—Bulgarian newspapers have cited the following extracts from the mutual greetings that the Russian and Bulgarian foreign ministers exchanged during their recent meeting in Moscow.

"We have begun to miss our friendship with Bulgaria," A. Kozyrev began. But his young guest S. Ganev not only did not pick up the theme, but immediately corrected him:

"Friendship," he said, "is hardly the word for the current situation. It would be more accurate to speak of equitable, mutually beneficial relations."

Tiresome as it is to realize, Russian diplomacy is losing its prestige even in what one would have thought were trifling matters of protocol like these.

The acute shortage of clear and detailed foreign policy initiatives from Moscow is palpable in the Balkans, for instance.

Let us listen to what Milcho Lalkov, a political commentator for Sofia's *KONTINENT*, says on this. First he states that the Moscow of today has no clear policy on the Balkans. While by no means sharing the Russian tsars' imperial ambitions toward the Balkans, M. Lalkov nevertheless drew attention to the fact that Peter I's dream of raising the flag over the straits [the Bosphorus and Dardanelles] or at least influencing the shaping of their international legal status was for centuries the guiding star of Russian diplomacy, but is there any pivot or star today?

This is how the author begins his response to the question that he raised: Moscow alienated Serbia and Montenegro by rushing to subscribe to the sanctions under the stern gaze of the White House. Kozyrev's initial assurance of his readiness to recognize Macedonia sounded unconvincing. It is totally unclear, the observer continued, what card Moscow is holding with regard to Albania (let me say on my own account that, from my impressions, it has no cards at all). As for its intentions toward Greece, they too are unclear. Events in the Dniester Region have considerably complicated Russian-Romanian relations. "Alienation is setting in between Moscow and Sofia," M. Lalkov noted sadly.

The author concludes that the upshot is that Moscow's diplomacy is giving the impression of confusion, lack of effectiveness, dubious improvisation, and a feeble desire to pursue a vigorous, dynamic policy. Lastly, M. Lalkov claims that "Russian diplomacy lacks a future and lacks purposefulness in the Balkans."

Yeltsin To Visit Bulgaria

LD2207165292 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1544 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Vladimir Abrosimov]

[Text] Sofia July 22 TASS—Russia's President Boris Yeltsin is to visit Bulgaria on 3-4 August at the invitation of Bulgaria's President Zhelyu Zhelev. A new bilateral treaty between the two countries will be signed during the visit, the BTA News Agency reported today quoting an official representative of the Bulgarian president.

Hydrometeorology Accord Signed With Kazakhstan

PM2207144592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from "News" column: "Enormous Sky the Same for Both"]

[Text] Taking into account the unity of hydrometeorological space, the hydrometeorologists of the republics of the former Union have embarked on the conclusion of bilateral agreements on cooperation. Among the first in the CIS to conclude such an agreement were Russia and Kazakhstan. The document was signed by Yuriy Zubov, chairman of the Russian Hydrometeorological Committee, and Sagen Duseynov, leader of the Kazakhstan Hydrometeorological Service. The agreement recognizes the importance of the mutually advantageous exchange of information in the interests of ensuring the protection of the population and the economy against the effects of the elements and weather cataclysms.

German Humanitarian Aid Flights Resume

PM2207141392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 8

[Report by Igor Andreyev: "Germany-Russia Humanitarian Airlift Back in Operation"]

[Text] Last week German TV worriedly reported that more and more humanitarian cargo destined for our country was building up at Koeln-Bonn Airport and that Russian pilots were not flying out the food and medicines.

"There was indeed an interruption in the Germany-Russia airlift," Gennadiy Zhukov, deputy leader of the working apparatus at the Russian Government's Commission for International Humanitarian and Technical Aid, said. "The reason is, unfortunately, a common one in our aviation and motor transport sectors—no fuel. In this instance it had not been delivered in sufficient quantities to the Tver and Ivanovo airfields where the An-22 and Il-76 military transports are based. Under the bilateral agreement on the airlift the German side refuels our aircraft with kerosene for nothing, but the 20 tonnes they provide is only enough for 90-120 minutes of flying time for the relatively slow-moving 'Antheus'."

"We informed our German partners, through our Bonn Embassy and directly, about the fuel problem."

"Nonetheless, thanks to the measures that were quickly taken, the first 'Antheus' to arrive in Germany after the holdup landed 7 July, and the second arrived a week later on the 13th. Since then flights have been increasingly frequent, virtually every day. On 16 July a flight left Koeln-Bonn for Syktyvkar, and on the 20th cargo was delivered to Naberezhnyye Chelny, on the 21st to Yekaterinburg. It only remains for me, on behalf of all Russians, to offer our thanks for this support for Russia at a difficult time."

Scientists Review Nuclear Winter Theory

PM2207140992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Jul 92 First Edition p 5

[Letter from I. Safonov, consultant of Russian president's group of experts, and A. Tarko, senior scientific staffer at the Russian Academy of Sciences Computer center: "Nuclear Winter Nonetheless Possible"]

[Text] Having familiarized ourselves with the item "No Need To Fear 'Nuclear Winter'" published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 May 1992, we believe it our professional duty to express disagreement with the AP report it describes on the need to review forecasts of the climatic consequences of a large-scale nuclear war—the so-called nuclear winter.

The report says that scientists from a number of U.S. scientific centers believe that the fact of relatively slight and merely local changes in the temperature of the air near the earth as the result of the fires at the Kuwait oilfields is confirmation that the climatic consequences of a nuclear war could be small and that previous forecasts of a nuclear winter should be reviewed.

That assertion is incorrect. Analysis of the climatic consequences of the fires in Kuwait in no way refutes the correctness of nuclear winter calculations. Nuclear winter occurs as a result of nuclear bomb attacks and subsequent gigantic fires in large cities, when the products of combustion rise to the outer troposphere and stratosphere (up to 10 km) and spread there, first over the Northern Hemisphere then over the Southern. The considerable drop in the temperature of the air near the earth takes place as a result of the blocking out of the sun's rays by a mass of aerosols in the air at this altitude, with the quantity, composition, and size of the aerosol particles which arise as a result of nuclear fires in large cities.

The nature of the fires in cities and at oilfields and also the composition of the relevant combustible substances differ considerably. The consequences of these fires also differ considerably. The products of combustion from fires at oilfields did not rise to a great altitude. It was this fact that determined the relatively slight change in temperature of the near-earth air.

These facts are well known to the specialists who not only studied the fires in Kuwait but also calculated their climatic consequences. Suffice it to say that these calculations were carried out by S. Bakan and others at the Max Planck Institute (Hamburg), C.A. Browning and others at the British Meteorology service (London), and G.L. Stenchikov at the Russian Academy of Sciences Computer Center (Moscow). All these calculations correctly reproduced the climatic consequences of fires. It should be noted that G.L. Stenchikov has done calculations on the same model on which he had previously, in conjunction with V.V. Aleksandrov, obtained nuclear winter forecasts which have become world famous.

There are thus no grounds for reviewing the forecasts of a nuclear winter as a result of the information about the fires in Kuwait.

[Signed] I. Safonov, consultant of the Russian president's group of experts.

A. Tarko, senior scientific staffer at the Russian Academy of Sciences Computer Center.

Taxes Imposed at Russian-PRC Border Crossing

LD2207231592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] In the near future there will be a practical demarcation of the Maritime stretch of the Russian-Chinese border. It is known that Russia and China have come to a final agreement on the line of the border and now it is to be implemented on the actual terrain. Mikhail Voznesenskiy reports:

[Voznesenskiy] The borders with their granite pillars [literary quotation]. This prestigious idea has found support and encouragement among the Russian participants in the joint demarcation commission. However, Ioselevich, deputy head of the Maritime kray administration, succeeded in persuading the assembly to opt for a ferro-concrete version, since a granite pillar would cost \$6,000 at the very least. So, it looks as if the modern version of the Great Wall of China will have to wait for another chance.

Now, about the new dues to be paid at the border. Please do not confuse them with customs duty—these are entirely local tolls, introduced by a decision by Kuznetsov, head of administration of Maritime kray. They will be collected from every motor vehicle travelling via the Grodekovo-Suifen He border crossing: 600 rubles [R] per car if there is a guarantee that it will return; a fee of R14,000 for each truck, with a one-way ticket, so to speak. The rayon administration of the Pogranichnyy rayon decided not to be left behind by the kray administration, so it introduced its own, local taxes—not on vehicles but on their countrymen: from now on, every person traveling to China on official business is to pay R200, and every tourist, R1,000 plus U.S. \$10. And no one seems troubled by the fact that the local administrators have patently exceeded their commission where hard currency was concerned.

The repercussions of this measure are self-evident: yet another increase in prices on the Chinese consumer goods in commercial shops. What response will there be on the part of the Chinese? No response, I think, apart from regret. In this same Suifen He, the local authorities support trade development with Russia and the CIS countries in all possible ways. They don't care whether it is private trade or primitive barter, whether payments are made in yuans, dollars, or rubles. They are prepared to do anything to revive economic life in this backward part of China. The Chinese are prepared to open a

market both for their own and for our people right at the border; they have already built it.

Border guards are for it—both the Chinese and ours. It is the Maritime kray administration that is against it.

Commentary on PRC Ties With U.S., Vietnam

OW2207115192 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin
1000 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Report on "station observer" Muratov's commentary on foreign media reports on China; from the "Half-Hour With Wang Xiao" program]

[Text] The foreign media has noticed China's active efforts to gradually improve its relations with the United States. During a meeting last week with former U.S. Secretary of State Haig, Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said: China and the United States should seek more common points to substantially improve their relations. Jiang Zemin said: Strengthening Sino-U.S. contacts conforms to the interests of both peoples. It is conducive to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world at large.

The station observer notes: As I go on discussing the Sino-U.S. issue, I would like to point to the early concrete signs of mutual understanding in economic relations between the two countries. A REUTER reporter in Beijing reported on 17 July: China has made significant concessions to the United States by agreeing to phase out invisible barriers to the entry of U.S. products into the Chinese market. These invisible barriers are designed to regulate transactions with foreign businessmen, who do not understand China's laws and regulations.

During the just concluded talks, China promised to release [words indistinct] some internal laws and regulations. The REUTER reporter characterized the gesture as a major concession by China to the United States. The next round of Sino-U.S. trade talks is scheduled to be held in Washington on 30 July. Currently, a considerable number of bilateral issues remain to be solved. Beijing delegates told the REUTER reporter: The two countries still maintain widely different positions on trade conflicts.

The station observer goes on to discuss Sino-Vietnamese relations. Currently, no solution is in sight regarding the dispute between China and Vietnam over the Nansha [Spratly] Islands. According to a 19 July REUTER report, China has signed an agreement with a U.S. company, over the objections of Vietnam, to explore for oil on the islands. It is also reported that China is prepared to discuss contentious issues with Vietnam. On 19 July, Vietnam reportedly invited Premier Li Peng of China's State Council to pay an official visit to Hanoi. Both sides stressed the need for solving all contentious issues by political means.

The station observer states: Besides China and Vietnam, other claimants to the Nansha Islands include the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan. Except for Brunei, the other claimants maintain troops on Nansha and the other islands. The observer notes that China and Vietnam may soon hold bilateral talks on the issue.

UN Readiness To Strike Against Iraq Viewed

LD2207143892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1110 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Commentary by Aleksandr Pogodin]

[Text] The United States [as received] is ready to deliver a punitive air strike against Iraq, CBS reports from Washington. Such an action may come in retaliation for the noncompliance of the Saddam Husayn regime with the United Nations resolutions ordering inspections of the Iraqi facilities dealing with the production of nuclear, chemical, and other weapons of mass destruction. Commentary by Aleksandr Pogodin.

This report reflects a new and very dangerous stage of confrontation between the Security Council and the Iraqi authorities. Baghdad has been openly sabotaging a number of UN decisions, stipulating primary conditions for stopping the UN military operation to prevent Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. The latest move by Iraq was to prohibit a group of UN experts from entering its agricultural ministry building, where documents on the development of ballistic missiles are supposed to be kept.

This is only one example of Baghdad's disrespect for UN decisions, let alone the well-known attempts to conceal stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and manufacturing equipment. Iraq insists that the UN contingent be removed from its territory. Acts of terrorism against UN observers continue.

The provocative behavior of the Iraqi side has been more than once discussed at the UN Security Council, which repeatedly warned Iraq of serious consequences it may face. During the latest consultations, the Security Council members appeared unanimous in their assessment of the present situation, and voiced a necessity to use the Council's full authority to make Iraq comply with UN resolutions. According to the Associated Press Agency, the United States, Britain, France, and Saudi Arabia are studying the possibility of an air attack on Iraq within the next ten days. Let's hope it will not come to this. At any rate, such an operation will have to win the Council's approval first, and it may still rely on tougher economic and political sanctions. It remains to be seen whether the Iraqi leadership, obstinate as it is, will take practical steps to fulfill its commitment to the United Nations, remembering the bitter lesson of Desert Storm.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Meeting on Army Housing

PM2207192192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 23 Jul 92 p 1

[By Yelena Agapova: "Servicemen and Their Families Should Not Be Victims of Unsettled Lives. Russian President Examines Questions of Social Protection for Servicemen"]

[Text] For many years it was considered the norm for people who chose the military profession to be knowingly condemned to be the victims of unsettled lives. Lack of the most basic human comforts automatically lay in store for them from the beginning of their service to the end, along with all manner of everyday torments which these people have to bear with stoicism.

Today, thank God, the approach is different. Politicians have recognized that the state has no right to remain eternally in servicemen's debt, year in year out only noting the increasing number of servicemen without apartments on a long-term basis. It is particularly inadmissible to demand professional effectiveness of Army and Navy cadres without resolving their highly acute social problems.

These ideas were once again voiced during Russian President B. Yeltsin's meeting with the heads of Russian oblast, kray, and republic administrations, the Defense Ministry leadership, and the commanders of districts, fleets, and groups of forces. The meeting, in which members of the government also took part, was held 21 July in the Kremlin. There was one item on the agenda: social security for servicemen.

The president remarked that the issue itself, like this discussion of it, can be considered acutely political. "If we want reliable defense of the state, we must provide servicemen with reliable social protection."

We do not think that this is just talk; this is the position espoused by the president, which he has once again reaffirmed. In his opinion, despite the well known measures adopted lately to provide servicemen with social protection, due attention is still not being paid to the army's needs.

He set out the aims of the current meeting clearly and in the following order: First, the results of the implementation of the 19 February 1992 decree "On Measures To Increase Social Protection for Servicemen..." must be summed up and the situation regarding the housing shortfall and the restitution of housing arrears to servicemen examined. Second, earlier measures must be adjusted and additional ones formulated. Lastly, acceptable ways for local executive organs and the military to cooperate in resolving social issues must be found.

The fact that both sides are not yet cooperating properly is obvious. Yeltsin noted that concrete work is often

supplanted by disputes between representatives of the administrations and the military regarding the size of the shortfall. There must not be any duplicity here. However, in connection with increasing construction costs the local administrations in St. Petersburg, Kemerovo, and certain other cities have automatically reduced the size of their shortfall, which seems wrong to the military. Moreover, according to B. Yeltsin, the local authorities often resort to various kinds of tricks to avoid implementing the decree. On the other hand, the funds allocated are insufficient because of the drastic increase in construction costs.

The upshot is that a third of Russia's regions, the president said, have failed to implement his decree. Of the 88 regions the administrations in Krasnodar and Khabarovsk Krays, Volgograd, Amur, Kostroma, Murmansk, Leningrad, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, Tambov, Ryazan, Ulyanovsk, and certain other oblasts, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Mariy El, North Ossetia, Chuvashiya, etc. have permitted the greatest lag in eliminating their arrears to servicemen.

Things are hard for everyone today, B. Yeltsin stressed, but there are nevertheless regions that are trying to fulfill their commitments to the military and are repaying the debts. For instance, Stavropol Kray, Udmurtiya, Kaluga, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Yekaterinburg, and Tyumen Oblasts, etc. But by and large, as was pointed out at the meeting, the situation is still complex.

The speech delivered by Colonel General V. Dubynin, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, cited in particular the following facts and figures: Today the number of servicemen on Russian territory who have not been provided with housing totals 104,600 families, while 82,900 families need an improvement in their housing conditions. How are local organs of power eliminating the arrears? The figures speak for themselves: The military received only 1,252 apartments from the local authorities out of the 7,500 (15.7 percent) due from shared participation and 1,091 apartments out of the 13,200 (8 percent) due under the government's resolution.

Specialists predict that roughly 240,000 apartments will have to be built for servicemen leaving the groups of forces, the CIS states, and "trouble spots."

In our view, these figures not only reveal the deformations of the past but also the reasons for the current social heat in the Army. To disregard that is shortsighted at the very least.

However, housing was not the only topic of discussion at the meeting. Defense Ministry representatives made specific proposals to the president and members of the government on a whole series of vital issues. Namely a range of social problems that need to be urgently resolved. These include delays in payment of wages, food and material provisioning for personnel, job placement for servicemen's family members, reception and provision of amenities for troops, allocation of land, and

school and kindergarten places for children... All this must be resolved in a civilized manner and in accordance with normative acts.

Summing up the results of the meeting, B. Yeltsin noted that there are of course objective factors which have made it impossible to implement the February decree. But that cannot justify the shortcomings as far as resolving social problems in the Army is concerned. The president thinks that the discussion showed that tough measures are required against those representatives of the administration who have effectively sabotaged implementation of the decree. The president also ordered that the reasons for the nonimplementation of the decree be studied within the month and that action be taken against the culprits, up to and including dismissal.

We would point out that the discussion was not just a matter of verbal promises. The president said that he had signed two documents—a Decree on Additional Measures To Finance the Construction and Acquisition of Housing for Servicemen and a presidential ordinance to implement this decree—on the day of the meeting, 21 July. Regrettably, the editorial office does not yet have the text of the decree. That is why we are summarizing some of its provisions from the dictaphone recording. Provision is being made for appropriations to be allocated for this year and the first half of 1993 to ensure the commissioning of a total of 3.397 million square meters of apartment blocks for servicemen and 2.098 million square meters for people discharged from military service.

The president has instructed the Russian Government to allocate an additional 39.3 billion rubles [R] in appropriations for the purpose in 1992. Executive organs are to be allocated R16 billion of this money to build homes for servicemen discharged from military service into the reserve or pensioned off and for people moved from military camps.

The Russian Defense Ministry has been allocated R23.3 billion to meet the 1992 targets for the commissioning of housing and social and everyday amenities, including R5 billion for the acquisition of apartments. (The full texts of the decree and the ordinance will be published in an upcoming issue.)

Will it now prove possible to repay the debt to soldiers by the end of the year at least? Time will tell.

Yeltsin, Makharadze on Military Housing

OW2207214292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1703 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin speaking at a meeting with regional administrators and defence officials in Moscow yesterday [21 July] set the task of providing housing to

servicemen as early as possible and warned against the discrimination of officers and their dependents as far as this was concerned. Speakers at the meeting discussed the implementation of the president's decree on social security nets for retiring servicemen. Yeltsin said that both chief administrators and the defence ministry had neglected this issue.

The president also called for an early legislation on the Russian Army saying that Russia was in need of armed forces, both strong and of high morale.

As commander-in-chief, the president gave a stern warning against the abuse of office and squandering of the army property pointing to the emerging trend of a merger between army supply departments and commercial structures. On social security nets, Yeltsin said he would soon issue a decree to help raise additional financing for the construction of housing for servicemen. He also spoke of finding resources for pay indices to servicemen in the face of impending price rises, and of raising the upkeep of officers and men. The president's press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, speaking afterwards, said Yeltsin had reprimanded defence ministry officials for inability "to set their own house in order".

THE HOUSING PROGRAMME FOR SERVICEMEN UNDER YELTSIN'S CONTROL

The problem of housing for servicemen will not be resolved this year, but the local authorities are expected to service their debt on accommodation accrued over the years, deputy prime minister Valeriy Makharadze told IF [INTERFAX] in an exclusive interview at the end of yesterday's conference in Moscow.

The Russian official said the president's decree would be followed by verifying how it was being enforced and what measures were needed to do so. He said the government raised an extra Rbl [rubles] 39 bln [billion] for housing construction this year and in the first quarter of 1993, of which Rbl 16 bln would come from local government revenues, with the remainder to be covered by the defence ministry.

Under a new strategy for the construction of housing to servicemen, 60% of that amount would be spent for completing unfinished blocks of flats, which Makharadze said were 60-80% ready.

The deputy prime minister said that apart from taxpayers' money, the proceeds from army property sales, also in hard currency, must be put to better use describing the situation as it is now as shambles.

He called on Army supply departments and the finance ministry to set up a single mechanism for the sales of Army property, fix justifiable prices and use the proceeds for housing construction needs alone. Away from the existing difficulties, Makharadze blamed regional chief administrators for negligence of duty warning that "heads might roll" following president Yeltsin's decree.

Mironov Explains Western Group Reposting Plan

PM2207153192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 21 Jul 92 p 3

["Direct Line" report by Sergey Pashayev: "Battle-Wearied Officers From Trouble Spots in the Former Union Have the Chance to Continue Service in the Western Group of Forces"]

[Text] Western Group of Forces—Russian Federation Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Valeriy Mironov has completed his working visit to the Western Group of Forces. At a meeting with leading personnel he gave a brief account of the cadre measures the Russian Federation Defense Ministry plans to implement in the Western Group of Forces in the very near future.

In particular there is the proposed substitution scheme whereby a considerable number of Russian servicemen will move from trouble spots in the former USSR to the group of forces. In particular, from the Baltics, the Dniester region, and certain regions of the Transcaucasus and North Caucasus Military Districts.

Many of these people, Colonel General Mironov stressed, are in an extremely serious situation at the moment, in some cases having lost housing and property in moving their families to Russia in a hurry.

The plan is to send several thousand officers from among them to continue service in the units and formations that are being moved from the Western Group of Forces at the final stage of the withdrawal of our forces from the territory of Germany in two stages—in the period from this September through next May. They will replace those who have been serving here since 1988-1989.

Yeltsin Rejects 14th Army Chief's Promotion

MK2207113292 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY
KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 18 Jul 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "He Went Too Far..."]

[Text] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned that Yeltsin has refused to sign a decree conferring the rank of lieutenant general on Major Gen. Aleksandr Lebed, 42, commander of the 14th Army. It has been learned from informed sources that this is connected with the president's displeasure at the new 14th Army commander's harsh remarks at the memorable news conference. Lebed is the only one of the top Russian military chiefs recently recommended for promotion by the Ministry of Defense to be overlooked on conferment of the next rank.

Yeltsin To 'Return to Supreme Soviet'

PM2207151592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 21 Jul 92 p 1

["Own Information" report: "The President Returns..."]

[Text] At the Russian Federation president's meeting with media leaders Boris Yeltsin expressed the firm intention to "return to the Supreme Soviet." The head of state self-critically observed that over the past year he had been a rare visitor to the Russian parliament.

Maybe that is why the conflict arose between the supreme organs of legislative and executive authority, a conflict which has grown and grown of late, to society's displeasure. The idea of holding a referendum on the liquidation of the Russian Federation Congress and Supreme Soviet as the supreme institutions of Russian legislative power even arose. Boris Yeltsin believes that questions of power can only be settled by a new, democratic constitution.

The Russian Federation president announced that he had met the day before with Russian people's deputy O. Rummyantsev, one of the drafters of the new Russian constitution. A constitutional commission session is set for 29 July. The Russian president intends to take the chair again, after an interval of one year.

Burbulis on 'Regrouping' of Political Forces

*LD2207172592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1642 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS—There is no war in the Russian structures of power, a certain regrouping of political forces is taking place in the country, according to State Secretary of the Russian President Gennadiy Burbulis.

Both the leaders of the country and common people are divided into those who see Russia in future and those who want to keep it in the past, he told the "Echo of Moscow" radio.

The split is mostly explained by a gap between the triumph of democratic forces last July [month as received] 12 (when Boris Yeltsin was elected president) and August 19 (the hard-line coup) and everyday exhausting life. The contradiction results in hard feelings and clashes of interests, according to the state secretary.

Naturally, public opinion differs mostly on ways of implementing reforms, not on the their final goal. It is a very complicated problem and one should stop offering easy, naive and non-productive solutions to it, according to Burbulis.

It is important to remember that concrete positions of those in power are being crystallised. And the president plays the role of a counter-balance for various political forces which are regrouping at present. That is his current task, the state secretary said.

Yeltsin Adviser on Need for 'Strong Power'

*LD2207035292 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Jul 92*

[Report on news conference by Sergey Stankevich, the president's state adviser on political issues, with unidentified correspondents on 21 July; place not given; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Begin Stankevich recording, in progress] ...and at the moment a change of political era in the life of Russia is taking place. This time the choice will be made in favor of gradual reforms, in favor of self-evolution on the basis of our own civilization's background. But these are reforms which should be carried through by a strong power. [end recording]

This is how Sergey Stankevich, the president's state adviser on political issues, has outlined Russia's course for the near future at a meeting with journalists today. In his opinion, it is precisely a strong power that we are lacking today. Among the reasons for this he listed the conflict between the legislative and executive powers, the political apathy of the general public, and, most importantly, the absence of an ideological justification for the present course. In his opinion it is only now, after a long delay, that a movement toward the power mentality is beginning to take shape.

[Begin Stankevich recording] Power is about the state turning inward to its own resources. It is all about the concentration of its own forces, resources, and efforts to ensure an economic and cultural breakthrough on the basis of its own strength, thereby becoming a power. [end recording]

Presidential Consultative Council Unanimity Noted

*PM2207093192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Jul 92 First Edition p 2*

[ITAR-TASS report: "Yeltsin Assembled Intellectuals Again"]

[Text] A session of the Presidential Consultative Council chaired by Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been held in the Great Kremlin Palace.

The following took part in the session: Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary under the president; Georgiy Arbatov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences United States and Canada Institute; Oleg Bogomolov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences International Economic and Political Research Institute; Pavel Bunich, president of the Union of Entrepreneurs and Lessees; Dmitriy Volkogonov, Russian Federation presidential counselor; Aleksey Yemelyanov, head of department at Moscow State University; Mark Zakharov, director of the Lenin Komsomol Theater; Doctor of Economic Sciences Gavril Popov; Yuriy Ryzhov, Russian ambassador to France; St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak;

Svyatoslav Fedorov, general director of the "Eye Microsurgery" interbranch scientific technical complex; and other members of the council.

In his introductory address, Boris Yeltsin expressed his intention to hold the council session on a regular basis. "The restoration of this institution is important to me," he said.

The president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov informed journalists that Boris Yeltsin has noted with satisfaction that positive changes have emerged in the Dniester region and South Ossetia. In the president's opinion, a successful formula for separating the warring sides has been found which will enable him to react more quickly when similar situations arise in the future.

According to the press secretary, the council members gave a constructive and at the same time critical assessment of the program for the second stage of the reforms. Specifically, Pavel Bunich said that the program is distinguished by its highly specific approach and that it contains many economic innovations, but it suffers through being excessively optimistic. In his opinion, the potential levels of inflation and the budget deficit have been underestimated somewhat. In Svyatoslav Fedorov's opinion, the program's weak point is that it has no clear-cut motivation for labor. Nikolay Shmelev, departmental chief at the United States and Canada Institute, described the program as very interesting and more specific and dynamic, but he noted that it would be useful to exempt investments from taxation.

"Today's meeting was one of the most substantial and fruitful we have had; a number of new ideas emerged during the meeting," Vladimir Tikhonov, council member and president of the Union of United Cooperative Members, told your ITAR-TASS correspondent. He noted that criticism of the economic program was moderate in tone. Practically all the proposals boiled down to the fact that macroeconomic stabilization is essential, but significant government development of and support for enterprise on the microeconomic level is the real basis for developing the economy. "If we cannot guarantee normal conditions for reproduction on the microeconomic level, there will be no macroeconomic stabilization," Vladimir Tikhonov stressed.

"Basically there was unanimity among everybody who attended the meeting," he noted, expressing his satisfaction that the president "gave an enthusiastic welcome to everything that was said."

Kozyrev Ouster Would 'Freeze' Kurils Question

MK2207121792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Jul 92 p 2

[NG report: "Moscow Rumors"]

[Text] It is being claimed that Andrey Kozyrev's removal from the post of Russian foreign minister will take place right on the eve of B. Yeltsin's visit to Japan. The

likelihood of such a course of events is confirmed by the fact that such a decision, adopted at that time, will not only satisfy the "party of statesmen" [gosudarstvenniki] but will also make it possible "automatically" to freeze the problem of the Kurils. Yeltsin cannot travel to Japan without specific proposals on this problem. It will be another matter if the leadership of the Russian Foreign Ministry is replaced on the eve of the visit.

'Democratic Russia' Leadership Criticized

OW2207181992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1700 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The official leadership of Democratic Russia, namely Gleb Yakunin, Ilya Zaslavsky, and Lev Ponomarev, seeks to turn the movement into a party for the president, which may lead to his unlimited dictatorship," the chairperson of the Novosibirsk regional organization of Democratic Russia, Deputy Aleksey Mananikov, said in an interview with IF [INTERFAX]. He expressed the view that the movement should take an attitude of "constructive opposition" to the Russian Government. "Unless the Democratic Russia leadership changes its position," he warned, "the movement may split up into two different political organizations at its extraordinary congress on July 25-26."

Shumeyko Interviewed on Government Tasks

PM2207131392 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 21 Jul 92 pp 1,3

[Interview with Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, by Yuriy Popov in the "Individuals in Government" feature, in Moscow; date not given: "What Is To Be Done? That Is the Question Facing Legislators. How Is It To Be Done? That Is the Question the Executive Must Answer," Vladimir Shumeyko, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Government, Believes"]

[Text] Vladimir Filippovich Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, was born in 1945. He graduated from the Polytechnical Institute and is a candidate of technical sciences. He worked as general director of the Krasnodar Measuring Instrument Plant. In 1990 he was elected an RSFSR people's deputy. From 1991 he was deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. He is married with two daughters and a grandson.

[Popov] Vladimir Filippovich! As deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet you were essentially an opponent of the government. Now that you have become one of the leaders of the government, a first deputy prime minister, you find yourself on the other side, as it were. What has been your experience of the contradictions between the legislative and executive branches?

[Shumeyko] Yes, the change in my kind of activity would seem to be substantial. In the little over a month since

my departure from parliament I have seen that my workload has become bigger, much bigger. At the same time the nature of the work has remained more or less the same. After all, as deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet I dealt with questions of the implementation of economic reform and legal support for it and led the task force coordinating activity to solve economic and social problems in the Russian Federation.

We worked in the closest contact with the government, although we did not sit down at the same table with its members. In other words, we liaised between parliament and the government and were a kind of intermediate link between them. My task was, together with the Supreme Soviet commissions and committees, to influence the creation of the legislative base for economic reforms and to prepare drafts for discussion by the Supreme Soviet and its Presidium.

Yes, there are contradictions in relations between parliament and the government. This situation is objective: After all, they are different branches of power and do not always have an identical approach toward specific problems. The legislative branch, like a designer, answers the question: "What is to be done?" And the executive, like an engineer, answers another important question: "How is it to be done?" However, arguments between designers and engineers have always existed, and without them there can be no development. It is just the same in politics: Without constructive arguments between parliament and the government there is no progress.

I learned a great deal in parliament—I can say I received a good schooling in legislative work. Now when I prepare any document or ordinance I automatically note how it tallies with the law and whether it may break it. That is, now you see practical measures in a different light and more carefully weigh the consequences of applying them.

[Popov] Some analysts see the arrival in the government of people with practical experience in production almost as opposition to the Gaydar team and its course. What is your opinion about this?

[Shumeyko] Yes, there is a lot of talk about the drafting of people with practical experience in production into the government. There are even extreme remarks to the effect that "Red Directors" and stooges of the nomenklatura have arrived in the government and this marks the beginning of the end for the Gaydar reforms. We recently assembled the general directors of the biggest enterprises, over 50 people. And, clearly under the influence of such assessments, some of them—people's deputies—tried to make out that Shumeyko is their stooge in the government and is supposed to uphold their demands and complaints and to represent the corps of directors, as it were.

My polite but firm reply to this was that I by no means feel I play that kind of role and I have made no such promises to anyone. It is simply that the president's decree on my appointment coincided with the wishes of our "industrial corps." But this in no way means that I

have any special stances in implementing economic reform. Right from the start I have been and I remain a supporter of radical transformations of the economy, and the fact that I formerly worked as a general director is no hindrance to this. It has to be said that I used to lead an enterprise which, on my initiative, withdrew from the ministry. At that time, back in 1986, an interbranch state association with its own bank, foreign trade, and supply and sales firms was formed from such enterprises. That is, we began to work autonomously. If you like, we moved toward market conditions earlier than the others.

We gained a great deal from this. First of all, it helped us to understand the economy from within and to come to know it not in its theoretical, clear-cut form, but the way it actually is. We learned to make decisions autonomously: There is no one higher up to back you up, no one whose name you can invoke in extremity. The entire responsibility rests on you.

That was the schooling we received. Of course, each of the four general directors appointed to the government has his own life and his own views. But we are united by one thing: We have all come here to continue the reforms, which must proceed without interruption. We must in no way destroy their rhythm or zigzag wildly.

I often say that in its policy the government reflects society's deep-seated desire to switch to democracy and a market economy and expresses fundamental social needs and interests. It realizes the extent of the responsibility it has assumed and knows what must be done to lead Russia out onto the road of progress.

The drafting of people with practical experience into the government must strengthen it. We have assembled a united, cohesive collective. Of course, each person can have his own view of specific problems. But we are all united on the principles and therefore we can implement the jointly elaborated course. So there can be no question of any two groups. There is one group, and it is called the Russian Government.

[Popov] The situation in which we now find ourselves is in many respects the consequence of the fact that for decades in our country the economy was the handmaiden and apprentice of politics. Even today we still have not rid ourselves of this syndrome. What do you think should be the relationship between politics and the economy?

[Shumeyko] I am convinced that the economy must come ahead of politics. But we too had a period when this relationship was violated. I remember how we wanted to prove the state's sovereignty and independence, and we adopted laws dictated precisely by political considerations. The aims of political groups and groupings gradually began to exert less influence on economic decisions. I think that now economic interests increasingly often predominate over temporary political considerations.

[Popov] The government makes decisions affecting the lives of millions of people. How can all the possible consequences be taken into account and the right option chosen? What is the guideline here?

[Shumeyko] The most important thing is understanding the processes that are taking place, inner congruence between personal convictions and the government's program, and a considered approach. For this reason I do not like to resolve questions on the fly, in a rush. But this does not mean I am slow-witted, no. I react instantly. I think I can sign a paper there and then, but I carefully consider it and I try to consult with others and to listen to people who hold the opposite opinion. This makes it possible to see the whole range of possible consequences of a particular decision.

[Popov] A lot of decrees and resolutions are adopted. But unfortunately they are very poorly implemented. What should be done to ensure that they all "work" properly?

[Shumeyko] First, the structure of the executive branch, its whole vertical axis, needs improvement: government, administration heads, city mayors, and so forth. Communications here must be more clear-cut, timely, and effective.

Second, and this is the most important of all, the decisions made by the government often do not reach those who must carry them out. Direct mercenary concealment of government resolutions is sometimes encountered.

Third, the legal illiteracy of the population in general and especially of those who are called upon to implement government decisions is a hindrance. They simply cannot understand many documents.

[Popov] Do you often meet with people "from the street" or production workers?

[Shumeyko] To be frank, what is most important for me is contact with production workers, not merely with ordinary citizens, so to speak. Even without this I am well aware of what is happening in our stores and streets and there is no need for special meetings and conversations. But I cannot manage without contacts with enterprise and plant directors, sovkhoz and kolkhoz leaders, entrepreneurs, and cooperative members.

So I began by "cobbling together my own team," as it were: I am talking not so much about staff specialists as about nonstaff specialists and advisers working on voluntary principles. I have remembered many people with whom I cooperated before, and I have also recruited people I did not previously know from various sectors of industry. We have begun to meet periodically and to discuss and study various drafts. We recently held a meeting of leading production workers from the chemical sector. A detailed exchange of opinions took place with trade union figures, trade union committee

chairmen, and trade union activists from machine-building and instrument-making enterprises and their directors. I will be blunt: The discussion was difficult.

Such meetings are very productive: They help us to gain a deeper grasp of the state of industry and to see where and what the omissions are and what nuances should be taken into account when preparing documents.

[Popov] What are the government's priority concerns now?

[Shumeyko] To secure stabilization. I do not mean achieving profound shifts within a very short time or a promise to sharply improve life overnight. Above all we must stabilize the situation, lower the inflation rate, and stop the decline in production. Figuratively speaking, we have to emerge from free fall.

The most vulnerable point preventing this is the financial and credit system. We should solve the problem of the Central Bank and of creating a normal network of real commercial banks oriented toward investment in the sectors of industry producing needed goods.

Certain tactical points are equally important, such as the harvest, for instance. The government is working on the reconstruction of the whole of agriculture. But it would be impermissible to lose the harvest because of these broader concerns. We have been forced to go back to the "staff" system, although we have long been tired of these endless "battles for the harvest." If this staff includes deputy ministers, people capable of instantly making decisions, we will only gain from this. Without resurrecting the old style of leadership and without supplanting the authorities at local level, we will be able to react swiftly to the most acute situations.

[Popov] Statesmen are usually exceptionally busy people....

[Shumeyko] You can only describe it as a nightmare....

[Popov] Everybody complains: "I have no personal life!" How do you relax?

[Shumeyko] The best relaxation so far as I am concerned is to go fishing. It really allows me to forget things at least for an hour or two. Trite though it is to say, it is a cleansing, revitalizing experience to commune with nature. You could not think of a better way to relax and get rid of everyday stress.

I want to boast, like any fisherman: On my last trip I caught a 700-gram carp. I am not exaggerating...

Out of my old hobbies probably only one is left—woodworking. I very much like to spend at least an hour on Sundays carving wood and messing around with a chisel. Lately I have really been getting into tennis; you have to "keep fit."

[Popov] What do you see as the meaning of life?

[Shumeyko] Some people think that if a person has planted a tree, built a house, and created a family, he has not lived in vain. I have done all this: I have planted many trees and I have built houses with my own hands. Nevertheless, I do not think this is the only purpose of our life on earth.

By nature I am a pragmatist; I spend all my time dealing with operational matters. And you know, sometimes there is no time even to think about philosophical questions. It is probably this merry-go-round, this constant motion, this essentially unending succession of tasks, each more complex and difficult than the last, that constitutes my life. Were this flux to cease, my life would probably immediately lose its meaning.

We are now faced with great changes in the fate of the country and the lives of all our compatriots. By working in the government, I want to prove that Russia is on the right road and that our reforms are precisely what is now needed in order to approach the standard of world development. For me there is no more important task than carrying our plans through to completion and demonstrating the correctness of our government's course.

[Popov] We are talking in the building on Staraya Square where the country's fate essentially used to be decided. Clearly, the office in which you are now working has seen quite a few occupants. Do you happen to know who had this office before you?

[Shumeyko] Well, I have been told it used to belong to Suslov, Andropov, Chernenko, Gorbachev, Ligachev, Ivashko, and Burbulis....

You might say that the very history of the last few decades in Russia has taken place here to some extent. Such a varied history....

[Popov] Vladimir Filippovich! Can it be said that this is your hour of glory?

[Shumeyko] I think that definition would not be quite accurate. Of course, a very great responsibility falls on me and the scale of my activity is tremendous. It is a tremendous effort to look after such a complex sector of state management.

Nevertheless, I regard an event of almost 20 years ago as the high point in my life and work. At that time we were carrying out such interesting work in the plant's research institute that we did not go home before nightfall, until we had fulfilled our plans: The first laser unit was being developed. I remember them bringing the tube we had been awaiting for so long. I remember holding it, I remember we ran immediately to the dummy unit and by morning we had obtained the first laser track. That was probably my real hour of glory....

Vasilyev Interviewed on Economic Reforms

PM2307081192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
 PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jul 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Russian Government Adviser Sergey Vasilyev by I. Savvateyeva; place and date not given: "Why Are the 'Oil Generals' Afraid of Free Prices. Russian Government Adviser Sergey Vasilyev Ponders This and Other Paradoxes of the Russian Economy"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Although Sergey Vasilyev is only 35 years old, in his colleagues' opinion he is one of the country's major experts dealing with economic reform problems today. He has thoroughly studied Yugoslavia's experience with all its peculiarities, which are so typical of Russia today: federal structure and national conflicts. He gained practical experience in reform work in Leningrad, where he worked on the creation of a free economic zone. This is what awakened Gaydar's interest in him. He was invited to join the "team" as deputy prime minister, together with Nechayev, Aven, and Mashits. He is distinguished by his phenomenal capacity for work, and his colleagues are amazed by his ability to digest mountains of material. He is a connoisseur of architecture and art.

[Savvateyeva] Sergey Aleksandrovich, the Russian Government recently drew up its "Program for the Deepening of Economic Reforms." But some observers make the point that, as a matter of fact, there has been nothing "to deepen" for a long time now—the president and the government have "surrendered" the reforms under pressure from the agrarian-industrial lobby. The numerous subsidies have brought the economy to the brink of hyperinflation.

[Vasilyev] Subsidies come into play when the government tries to artificially subsidize the producers. For as long as the prices for some products remain regulated, subsidies are inevitable. What was happening here until quite recently? Costs were rising, prices were kept stable, and by the end of last year subsidies had risen to almost 15 percent of GNP. This is a huge amount. Consequently, the budget deficit reached 20 percent of GNP.

I agree that the government's policy on subsidies merits serious criticism. They were sharply reduced in January. But in the spring, under pressure from the industrial lobby, they were being handed out again. Of course, the coal industry had to be subsidized because coal prices remained regulated. It must be admitted, however, that these subsidies were really high: They were actually used to pay the miners' wage increases. Now we are under pressure from the agrarian lobby: It demands subsidies for agricultural output. Earlier, when agricultural output prices were kept stable, the milk and meat subsidies were high enough. No sooner were they abandoned, and they have to reintroduced.

[Savvateyeva] But industry has really hiked its prices for output destined for the countryside.

[Vasilyev] Things are not as unambiguous as all that. Getting to the nub of the matter, it must be admitted that the main cause of high prices for agricultural output is the inefficiency of the kolkhoz-sovkhoz system. Land is poorly utilized, there is vast overconsumption of energy. If we were to maintain all this by subsidies, we would appear to be saying: Carry on as before. Some people object: After all, agricultural producers are supported in Europe and the States! But why should we follow suit if Europe and the States are doing something wrong? As a matter of fact, even their governments are constantly struggling to put an end to such payments. We had achieved this, and now we are forced to reintroduce subsidies, only to abolish them again in 12 or 18 months' time, as envisaged in the new program. Of course, the answer lies not in subsidies but in land reform.

Actually, it would not go amiss to adopt yet another measure: Anything that cannot be sold on the domestic market should be shipped abroad. The country has an overproduction of meat, and yet we are importing it. I think that the same will happen with grain. Our grain producers are already suffering because we are importing a lot. Moreover, imported grain is much more expensive than the home-grown. But since it is subsidized, the processing sectors find it cheaper to buy than the home-grown. This is also very advantageous for foreign trade organizations.

[Savvateyeva] Your reflections are probably correct from the viewpoint of "pure" economics, but I am speaking on behalf of thousands of our readers, officially described as "representatives of the poorest strata of the population," who eat this meat only once a week... I am afraid that your advice to ship the meat abroad will cause nothing but indignation among them.

[Vasilyev] Economics is a science, it deals not with emotions but with facts. This is a fact: We are in a situation of overproduction and overconsumption of meat in terms of the country's level of economic development. Everyone—and mainly the poorest—will be a winner if we were to solve this problem efficiently from the viewpoint of "pure" economics. After all, now that we are paying subsidies to producers, we are helping not the poorest but the prosperous people. In order to support the poorest, money should not be wasted on subsidies but should be paid out to pensioners, large families, and students. To enable them to buy meat even at high prices.

[Savvateyeva] You keep saying: This should be done, that should be done... I find myself thinking: All this reminds me of a speech by a discredited theoretical economist in opposition to the authorities. But you are the authorities. What prevents you doing what ought to be done?

[Vasilyev] That with which we began our conversation—lobbying. We have two most powerful lobbies—the industrial and the agrarian. They were knocked down during the putsch and stayed down for six months

afterwards, because Tizyakov and Starodubtsev were involved in the putsch. Now they are back on their feet. They are also powerful in the parliament, they have retained their apparatus in virtually all structures. The talk about surrendering the reforms stems primarily from the recent activation of these two groupings.

[Savvateyeva] As far as I can understand, you are nonetheless disinclined to confirm the actual "surrender of the reforms." But tell me, please, what do you think of the appointment of Khizha and Shumeyko as two new deputy prime ministers? Have you personally encountered any complications as regards the elaboration and implementation of reforms after they joined the government?

[Vasilyev] None at all. I know them both well and I find it easy to work with them. They are brilliant people, great minds, and I think that their appointment is a sign of serious support for Gaydar himself. They can take on a sizeable share of the work on operational management of the national economy. There are no substantial differences between us either on strategic or on tactical questions. Suffice it to say that, while in parliament, Shumeyko belonged to the faction of radical democrats, which offers the most substantial support for the government. Special mention ought to be made of Lopukhin's dismissal from the post of minister of the fuel and energy complex and the appointment of Chernomyrdin, an old [CPSU] Central Committee official, an old Union minister. This is certainly a concession to the industrial lobby. I have no idea of the forces which drive the conflict. One thing is obvious: The Ministry of the Fuel and Energy Complex is where the honey pot is to be found, that is where export licenses are issued. Lopukhin was really tough in that regard, he struggled against corruption. Moreover, he made no secret of the fact that, in the long term, he intended to altogether do away with the actual system of quotas and licenses. The oil generals were really afraid of this. Why?

Work it out for yourself: Why are they against freeing the oil prices? After all, it would appear that this would bring them large revenues. But matters are certainly not as simple as that. Now they have low prices for the domestic market but, to make up for it, they have export quotas. They use them to earn their foreign currency. A free market will emerge as soon as prices are freed and quotas abolished, and they will lose their monopoly rights to export. This is precisely why they were so fierce in persuading Yeltsin not to release the prices for energy sources. Unfortunately, they managed to persuade him.

[Savvateyeva] There are, however, a multitude of what would appear to be really weighty arguments against releasing oil prices: There are forecasts of a multiple—almost 20-fold—rise of prices for all commodities, there is talk of the Russian market being captured by imported goods and, consequently, of our own industry being ruined; there are fears that all oil stocks will be pumped away. This alone would appear sufficient to prevent any haste.

[Vasilyev] Let us begin at the end. There is a simple reason why we cannot pump all the oil abroad: The carrying capacity of oil pipelines. An accurately determined proportion will be exported, but a sizeable proportion will remain at home. This alone would be good enough reason to prevent our oil prices reaching world levels. Next, when releasing oil prices, we will certainly apply levers like export tariffs to regulate them inside the country. Something else that must also be borne in mind: Oil production is profitable under the present price relationships. Transportation, energy, components—everything is relatively cheap. As soon as oil prices are released, the price relationships will also change (we must under no circumstances allow them to be preserved, otherwise we would be fencing ourselves off from the world economy). This is when, according to generally accepted views among experts, oil extraction and sales will become unprofitable. Our oil may cease to be competitive on the world market because of its high costs, and priority will be given to the export of science-intensive output. Therefore, to claim that domestic prices will follow oil prices and will reach world levels is a joke.

As regards the possibility of the Russian market being captured by foreign goods following the economy's full liberalization, here we have a tried and tested method: import tariffs. As a matter of fact, a certain amount of sound competition can only benefit our domestic producers. For as long as we "protect" our industry using the methods suggested by the agrarian-industrial lobby, it will remain unfit to enter any world markets. I think that enterprises are afraid not so much of the actual release of oil prices but of unpredictability, uncertainty, and unexpected changes in all price relationships. Bearing this mind, we have decided to compromise with the industrialists and raise prices stage by stage.

[Savvateyeva] Sergey Aleksandrovich, let us turn to financial policy, which still remains the core of the government's reform program. It is planned to reduce the rate of inflation from 20 percent to 3 percent per month. Is this realistic?

[Vasilyev] It is. I cannot deny that the threat of hyperinflation exists, but hyperinflation is determined by two basic factors. First is the republics' "financial behavior." For as long as Ukraine can allow itself to suddenly release a credit emission of 500 billion [currency unspecified], all efforts by Russia will be fruitless. And the second dangerous element involves the way of solving the problem of reciprocal nonpayments. If we succeed in making the recently introduced credits and debts system work and in avoiding any major credit infusions into the economy, I do not perceive any serious grounds for alarm. Later on we will have to pursue the conventional monetary policy which is well known from the experience of many countries: Raising bank rates, rigidly controlling money supply, and a really tough budget... Of course, Western aid would not go amiss at that stage: critical imports, foreign currency reserves, stabilization fund.

[Savvateyeva] The government is accused of relying exclusively on Western aid.

[Vasilyev] Absolute nonsense! We can manage altogether without it, but this would be very painful from the social viewpoint. Western aid is a shock absorber which will ease the social burden during the stabilization program's implementation. On the other hand, it is also very important that the granting of such aid will enable us to postpone debt repayments.

[Savvateyeva] There are many fears that we will very quickly get through the entire stabilization fund...

[Vasilyev] So as to prevent this happening, it will be necessary to properly choose the moment for announcing a fixed exchange rate for the ruble and the rate itself. This is like a gold reserve. It is lying somewhere, in a Swiss bank for example, and nobody touches it. But everyone knows that it exists.

[Savvateyeva] It is obvious that there can be no economic stabilization without privatization, without creating a property-owning class. But privatization is progressing very slowly. Why do you think this is?

[Vasilyev] Privatization cannot progress quickly in principle. I think that it will begin properly as soon as investment checks are released. There will be strong pressure by the people wishing to exchange their checks for property. But there must be no illusions about privatization, either. There is no reason to expect that privatized enterprises will swiftly achieve growth. More often than not, these are enterprises burdened by debts and having a burdensome production structure...

[Savvateyeva] ...and a "burdensome" socialist mentality: Everyone wants to be in charge, people demand a lot, people want to earn a lot, but they are against any changes in their work style and their attitudes to work.

[Vasilyev] This is why we ought to rely not so much on privatization but on the private sector's development. This has been confirmed by the Polish experience. Over there, for example, about 30 percent of GNP is already being produced by the private sector.

[Savvateyeva] And what will be done for this purpose?

[Vasilyev] First—and this is enshrined in the new program—the registration procedure will be amended. It is also necessary to legislatively enshrine the right to buy and sell land. Now, for example, it is impossible to buy either office premises or a land parcel for private construction. There is also the following argument: All long-term credit relations are built on security, and real estate is the only asset which can be pledged as security in our country. Fixed productive capital? Its future is uncertain. But land, real estate—especially in cities—will always rise in price. By the way, land and real estate can also be used as a source for credit: A private entrepreneur can obtain loans and start his business against land that is pledged as security.

[Savvateyeva] Can we expect the adoption of any laws or decrees on this?

[Vasilyev] In general it is, of course, necessary to begin by amending the constitution. Now we are setting up a working group on legislation and would like to submit the first documents for the Supreme Soviet's consideration already in October. In addition, we also need a law on protection of property rights. A trade code ought to be elaborated. This is especially important because we totally lack the normal mechanisms which could ensure the performance of contracts. We expect to submit the trade code for consideration also in October.

[Savvateyeva] Do you consider that this will be sufficient to consolidate the private operator's position and enable him to accumulate capital and invest it in production?

[Vasilyev] This country will start accumulating when we get rid of the high inflation. Accumulations are pointless at present. As soon as it becomes advantageous to deposit money in the banks, when people start earning interest on their deposits in excess of the rate of inflation, they will start accumulating. And these resources could be used by private banks for investment purposes. Therefore low rates of inflation and banks—a multitude of private banks and investment companies—will determine the investment issue. To put it briefly, we are once more back to what the government has been constantly and tirelessly repeating: Financial stabilization first and foremost.

Oil Prices To Be Increased, Not Freed

MK2307080492 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 22 Jul 92 p 6

[Untitled Economic News Agency report on page 4 of BIRZHEVAYA GAZETA section]

[Text] The Russian Government does not plan to set oil prices free in 1992, although in the second half of the year it will evidently be necessary to increase them again, within the limits of 3,000 rubles [R] per tonne. Russian Federation Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev reported this 16 July in an interview with an Economic News Agency correspondent.

The real sale price of a tonne of crude oil in the republic as a whole does not exceed R1,700-1,900 today. Its further increase is being held in check by the effective demand of the main consumers, as well as by the reduction which has begun in the level of internal oil consumption. The minister believes that the majority of oil-extracting enterprises are managing at present to make a positive profit, proceeding from the existing prices for crude oil. The price reserves, however, are at full stretch.

It is possible to judge indirectly the timing of the introduction of new prices from Finance Minister

Vasily Barchuk's 16 July speech in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Commenting on one of the articles in the draft law on the Russian Federation budget system for 1992, he pointed out that a revision of the rates of deductions for geological prospecting and exploration work is connected with the future changes in oil prices. This, according to him, will happen in September.

Gaydar Considers Bank-Government Relations

LD2307084992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0711 GMT 23 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 23 TASS—"I am very hopeful that the Central Bank of Russia will make headway in solving the problem which must be the most volatile in our economy—the paralysis of payments" Acting Head of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS.

Asked about prospects for relations between the government and the Central Bank after the appointment of the ex-Chief of the Central Bank of the former Soviet Union Viktor Gerashchenko chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, Gaydar said he expected "normal constructive work, which does not rule out possible differences between the cabinet and the bank, which can never be fully avoided".

Gaydar declined to comment on Viktor Gerashchenko's recent statement that the convertibility of the rouble and financial stabilization would take much time to accomplish. As is known the Russian Government is planning measures to switch to convertibility within the next few months.

"No one has annulled the Central Bank's independence, even if the candidature for its acting chairman was discussed between parliament agencies and the government," Gaydar said.

He added that the government "discusses and solves common problems with the Central Bank on a regular basis, and today we have no misunderstanding or differences concerning the main aspects of the economic policy".

Restrictions on New Bank Chairman Explained

PM2307081892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[By Ivan Zhagel: "New Chairman of Bank of Russia Burdened by Old Problems"]

[Text] After the resignation of G. Matyukhin, chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, V. Gerashchenko, former chairman of the USSR Gosbank [State Bank], has been appointed to the vacant position as acting chairman.

Having a very good reputation in banking circles not only in Russia, V. Gerashchenko had already been seen as a contender to replace the Central Bank chairman when G. Matyukhin submitted one of his requests to

resign in June. However, his resignation did not take place then, so no appointment was made either.

It is interesting that in an interview with IZVESTIYA's correspondent which occurred about ten days ago, V. Gerashchenko placed special emphasis on the fact that back then, in June, he had linked his agreement to return to the post of Central Bank chairman to the return of his team, or in any case the greater part of it. You can assume that this time too he has stipulated major personnel changes in the leadership of the Central Bank of Russia. In any case, many people from the former USSR Gosbank have already appeared there recently.

In the wake of the personnel changes you can also expect a certain realignment of the Central Bank's policy. Although it will hardly be a fundamental change from the outset—those obligations to the world community that Russia accepted will force people to act very carefully here. V. Gerashchenko's main concern in the near future will most likely be to normalize the circulation of money within the country and eliminate the enormous nonpayments between enterprises.

There is one other reason for V. Gerashchenko's lack of freedom—his status as acting chairman appointed, moreover, under a gentlemen's agreement between the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the government. Whoever appointed him can also remove him. This again forces us to talk about the low level of our banking system's protection from outside pressure, although Russian banking laws give the Central Bank and its chairman a special status.

Investigation Into Counterfeit Notes Continues

LD2107215592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Speakers identified by caption]

[Text] Members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Security [MVD] of the Russian Federation are continuing their investigation into the sensational case of embezzlement in the banking system. It has already been established that 43 financial documents—so-called credit advice-notes—to the value of 17 billion rubles [R] have turned out to be counterfeit.

[Correspondent I.Minayev] Deplorable, but nonetheless a fact—the favorable conditions for this affair to be carried out, an affair which will probably go down in the annals of criminology, were created not just anywhere but within the banking system itself. The Central Bank of Russia could not even bring itself to check the paper presented to it and to elucidate how far it was covered by real cash. The documents of strict accountability—credit advice-notes—found themselves in the hands of criminals who had already succeeded in cashing about R3 billion and buying a pile of goods with them. They confiscated a huge amount of domestic and foreign

treasury notes, vodka worth R58 million, and Marlboro cigarettes to the sum of R100 million.

[Begin recording] [Minayev] In the press this is a big case which has been given the name of The Case of the Chechen Advice-Notes. But as far as I am aware you have a different point of view, by virtue of the fact that the crime is in no way of a national but of an international nature.

[M.I.Serdyuk, first deputy head of the Main Directorate for Economic Crimes of the Russian Federation MVD] One cannot say that this is a Chechen affair because, apart from Grozny and Moscow, during the investigation today we are also finding out about these swindles in other parts of our Russian Federation. We have already instituted over 40 criminal proceedings in different regions of Russia, also to the tune of over R10 billion. That is the situation which has developed today in the Central Bank and in the Commercial Bank, but it is impermissible. Just as the billions of cash which we are establishing today have come out of nothing, from counterfeit documents, and have gone into circulation, this is impermissible. [end recording]

Cash Shortage 'Can Be Solved' by Aug

OW2207141092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1247 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It was estimated at yesterday's [21 July] meeting held by Russia's Vice-Premier Georgy Kizha and attended by the leadership of the Supreme Soviet and the management of the Central Bank that the problem of shortage of cash can be solved by mid or late August. The information was given at today's press-conference in Moscow by the deputy-speaker of Russia's parliament Yury Voronin who warned that the issue of large banknotes may be complicated by the difficulty to change them.

Yu.Voronin also announced that a mechanism was agreed for enterprises's mutual settlements which stand now at the colossal sum of rb [rubles] 3 trillion. He refused to divulge any details which will be published, he said, "in two or three days". "We must be cautious about the possible variants not to worsen the situation", he added.

Shumeyko Says New, Lower VAT Being Calculated

LD2207144692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1335 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Ryabov]

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS—"The government agrees with the Russian Parliament that the value-added tax (VAT) can be reduced," Russian First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko told a briefing on Wednesday [22

July]. He said that the tax can be lowered by the end of the current fiscal year. "The new VAT is now being calculated," he said.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about the drafting of Russia's fuel-energy programme by the cabinet, he said that he had recently assumed the lead of an interdepartmental commission to draft a comprehensive programme for fuel and energy up to the year 2010. "Drafting a short-term programme for nuclear energy will be an initial step," he said.

Shumeyko said that the shortage of ready money in Russia can be remedied by combining cash and non-cash payments, the issuing of large bills, and a sharp increase of money turnover in banks.

He said the problem results from the "lack of confidence of organisations, administrations of territories and regions in a system of settlements introduced by former chairman of the Central Russian Bank, Georgiy Matyukhin." Shumeyko expressed the hope that Viktor Gerashchenko appointed as acting chairman of the Central Russian Bank is an authority on banking and will find "a correct approach to this problem."

Shumeyko said that the state purchase prices of grain remain at ten roubles per kilogram.

Chubays Discusses Privatization Program

LD2107125192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1035 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 21—If the programme of privatisation is carried out as planned by the Russian Government, the transfer of the economy to the market and private business will become irreversible in six months, Russian Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays said in a live broadcast by the Echo of Moscow radio station on Monday evening.

Chubays, the chairman of the Russian State Property Committee, set out the programme of privatisation and use of privatisation cheques—vouchers. They will be state securities with water marks. Every citizen will be granted vouchers to the same sum. Chubays has not named the sum, but said it will most probably be determined and announced within ten days. He said privatisation cheques will be used for the purchase of shares and that it will also be possible to sell them to other people.

Chubays said that the privatisation programme and the granting of privatisation cheques will apply to Russian citizens of any age, without restriction. In connection with the fact that at present there exists no document certifying Russian citizenship, the programme will apply to all citizens registered as residents in Russia, including those who are now outside Russia for various reasons. As to the servicemen, they will be taken into consideration at the places where they have been registered as residents

before being called up to the Army. The [words indistinct] through vouchers will comprise 40-50 per cent of state property. Vouchers will be ensured by the federal budget of the state. Chubays said there exists a list of enterprises not to be subject to privatisation.

The deputy premier said that the main problems of the financial improvement of the country have been resolved. He said the programme of financial recovery has been set in motion and is operating. But he believes the problems that arose are connected with the fact that the operation of the financial system is not sufficiently thought out. This explains the replacement of the chairman of the Russian Central Bank.

Regarding the new head of the Russian Bank, Chubays said that in his opinion and in accordance with the estimate of Western financial circles, Viktor Gerashchenko is now one of major specialists in finance and banking in Russia and has a high reputation abroad.

Unemployment To Reach '5-6 Million' by Winter

OW1707170592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1601 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fedor Prokopov, head of the Russian Federal Employment Service, announced on Friday at a meeting in Moscow of a three-way commission to regulate labor relations, that there are presently almost 203,000 officially registered unemployed people in the republic. According to Prokopov, however, in order to calculate the real number of unemployed, one must add another 400,000 of the so-called "unengaged" people who are still paid a stipend by enterprises for their forced inactivity. The Federal Employment Service estimates that by the fall in Russia the number of unemployed will reach 4 million, and during the winter rise to 5-6 million.

The members of the commission have entirely approved the "Main conditions of the state employment policy" as proposed by Prokopov, which recommend that the Cabinet develop a draft of a Program to support labor by August on the basis of the main conditions.

Commission participants reminded the government of its unfulfilled promise to publish a packet of practical steps to ease the cash crisis by July 10th.

Unemployment Figures Lower Than Predicted

PM2307101492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Jul 92 Morning Edition p2

[Report by correspondent Dmitriy Khrapovitskiy: "Fewer Unemployed in Russia Than Expected"]

[Text] If you remember, 176,484 people were registered as unemployed in Russia at the beginning of June. The forecasts had led us to expect 200,000 unemployed at that time. The explanation for the discrepancy given by the Committee for Employment was that perhaps some

of those dismissed had decided to use up their leave before registering with the employment services, while quite a few do not believe in these services and some are still ashamed to register.

What has changed in the last month? On an organizational level, the Committee for Employment has been transformed into the Federal Employment Service by presidential decree. Unemployment has in fact topped the 200,000 mark (202,879), but, once again, has fallen short of the forecasts, which expected it to reach 215,000. There is also another interesting figure: 82,349 of those registered with the employment services were removed from the books in June.

Marina Moskvina, deputy chairman of the Committee for Employment, gave several reasons for this. First of all, she said, people had found work with the help of the employment services. Because, despite the general expectation of massive cuts, at the end of June the Russian economy needed 400,159 working people, including 358,844 workers. A total of 60,394 people found work in June.

The number of unemployed taking part in public work (they are not removed from the books as a result of this) doubled in the last month from 6,751 to 12,783. Summer is the time for agricultural work and road repairs. Many oblasts are trying to make use of this fact. For example, the Moscow Department of Labor and Employment has concluded contracts with dozens of economic units in the Moscow region to send them seasonal workers.

The number of people dismissed fell slightly in comparison to April, and it is possible that this, coupled with the summer holiday mood, has led to the drop in the number of those seeking retraining with the employment services: from 8,379 to 7,559. At the same time, the number of people receiving unemployment benefit has risen from 89,269 to 107,764.

Western experience suggests that, in this period of slowly rising unemployment, we will perhaps witness the appearance of a new type of professional dependent in our society: the professional unemployed. After all, in any country which pays benefits and welfare, there are always some people who would rather receive a guaranteed minimum—albeit not very high—than seek work and, if necessary, change their qualifications. At present, for example, a school leaver registering as unemployed will receive a benefit higher than the grant given to a student attending a higher education establishment or technical school.

In order to at least avoid "encouraging" dependence, analysts of labor problems have proposed a two-tier benefit system to promote a return to employment. In particular, it would help to differentiate benefits, depending on whether the person concerned has left his job of his own accord or was dismissed as a result of cuts or conversion; whether he is looking for work for the first

time; whether he is seeking work after a very long break; and so forth. Deputies have not yet got around to discussing these "details."

The Russian Federal Employment Service has forecast that there will be 235,000 people unemployed by the beginning of August.

Health Insurance for All Forecast by 1993

LD2207177392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] By 1 January 1993, the health of every Russian citizen will be insured, Deputy Health Minister Vladimir Starodubov told ITAR-TASS. Despite the fact that only about 200 medical insurance organizations are operating in the country at the moment, the deputy minister is highly optimistic. Some problems connected with the transfer to obligatory insurance for medical care have already been solved: insurance contributions for non-working pensioners, the disabled, and children will come out of the state budget. Medical care under insurance is an alternative to paid health care, Vladimir Starodubov said in conclusion, voicing the hope that this will help to preserve social guarantees.

Union Leader Volskiy Interviewed on Economy

PM2007115292 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 16 Jul 92 pp 1,2

[Interview with Arkadiy Ivanovich Volskiy, leader of the "Renewal" Union, by Vladimir Kosarev in the "Today's Interlocutor" column; place and date not given: "Our Aim Is To Lead Russia Away From the Abyss"—first paragraph is biographical introduction under the subhead: "Business Card"]

[Text] Arkadiy Ivanovich Volskiy is president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [RUIE] (the Science and Industry Union [SIU] before the breakup of the USSR). He has held major party and state posts. In 1988 he was appointed chairman of the Committee for the Special Administration of the NKAO [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast]. In August of last year he spoke out against the formation of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. He is one of the leaders of the most influential political organizations, the All-Russian "Renewal" Union and the Civic Union.

[Kosarev introduction] My conversation with Arkadiy Volskiy started in a rather unexpected way—he refused point-blank to talk about the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, or, more specifically, about why he thinks that neither his peacekeeping mission in NKAO nor the numerous attempts by the Union and later the Russian leadership to establish peace there were crowned with success. In 1988-1989 Volskiy's name was constantly in the newspapers. Great hopes were placed on him—a prestigious politician and representative of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet in the NKAO—in settling the interethnic conflict. Real war is

now going on in Karabakh, and this disease has spread to many regions of the former Union. That is why this question seemed important to me.

[Volskiy] I swore, and I said this publicly, that I would not answer a single question about Karabakh for three years. I saw so much there that the wounds have not healed yet. And I would not like to pour fuel onto the fire, you must understand that. So I apologize to KRA-SNAYA ZVEZDA readers. I am prepared to give your newspaper my first interview about this in January of next year.

[Kosarev] Arkadiy Ivanovich, partly through the efforts of the mass media, the opinion has formed in society that both the SIU and the RUIE are giant semicommercial structures into which enormous CPSU resources were poured at one time. Is this true? What is your union involved in?

[Volskiy] The constituent congress of the RUIE was held six months ago. In view of the disintegration of the USSR we also had to create the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs which incorporates similar organizations from the CIS countries, the Baltic countries, Georgia, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, the Czech lands, and Slovakia. I head both of these organizations. We try to preserve a single technological area as far as possible and we promote a situation whereby leaders of enterprises cooperate actively and fruitfully with one another, resolving common economic tasks. Today members of the RUIE account for 73 percent of the output produced in the country.

Now something about whether we are a commercial structure and about the CPSU money that was allegedly invested in this structure. I have already said this, and I will stress once again, that all this is lies and conjectures. The RUIE and the SIU have never had anything to do with party money. It is even offensive—they are talking about it so much and yet no one has offered us even 100 rubles [R] for safekeeping. I recall one episode. One day I went to see Gorbachev about something, and suddenly he asked me: "Arkadiy, is it true that you have stashed away party money?" I was stupefied, and my legs turned to jelly from astonishment and mortification. The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee of all people knew, or should have known, what the situation was in reality.

I am sure that all these rumors are sparked off deliberately by certain circles—for whom it is convenient to divert people's attention from the real problems. It is to this end that a tense atmosphere is being stirred up around plant directors. In a number of publications and at rallies they are actually being called "Red Generals" and appeals are being made to "break their backs." Having grown tired of rejecting all these accusations, I wrote a letter to the general prosecutor and the minister of internal affairs, asking them to carry out a comprehensive inspection of us. They checked out everything they could. I recall this as a nightmare. It seemed that

they were even counting up the nails in the walls, never mind the money. With the participation of banks, the commission came to its conclusion, and put on record that we have never had any financial dealings with the CPSU.

[Kosarev] How is your union financed?

[Volskiy] Membership fees. And these are very, very modest in our union. In comparison with state management structures we have the lowest level of earnings: The average earnings in the union administration are R1,700 [time period not specified]. Admittedly we have just raised rates of pay by 80 percent, like the majority of organizations. However, because of a lack of money, we do not always manage to pay people on time.

[Kosarev] To what extent is the RUIE "tied up" with the defense complex and the problems of conversion? How do you assess the state of affairs in the military-industrial complex?

[Volskiy] A total of 21 percent of the members of our union are representatives of the defense sector. I assess the state of affairs in the military-industrial complex as unsatisfactory. And this is why: In Russia there are 1,500 defense enterprises, which employ 7.5 million people. Of these 350,000 are already unemployed. Orders are falling rapidly—they have fallen by over 40 percent in the past six months. People are being left without work and without any means of earning their living. And this applies to the best engineering, scientific, and technical personnel—the elite of the working class. Imported equipment is standing idle and becoming unserviceable. All this is tragic. If a military plant is closed in Moscow or St. Petersburg, the workers can go to a nearby one which produces civilian output. But where can people working in the enormous defense plants in Siberia or the Far East go? Some 110,000 of our people used to work in the nuclear industry. Many enterprises cannot be converted; they have to be closed down. And what about the people—are they to be thrown out? Instead of helping them, attempts are being made to turn them, together with the entire military-industrial complex, into enemies, and they are being accused of preparing coups of some kind. Once again, everything is turning into squabbles and rows. The already fragile equilibrium in the country is being destroyed.

[Kosarev] You mentioned conversion. Is the opinion that was literally imposed on us by the former Union leadership, which said that conversion will resolve the majority of our economic problems, not an erroneous one? In other countries' experience, conversion has always been a loss-making operation requiring investments of billions.

[Volskiy] I am deeply convinced that this potential should be exploited. A total of 60 percent of defense enterprises' output is now civilian output. The process will continue to develop. But it really does require a great deal of expenditure. As Chaliapin said, only birds sing for free.

[Kosarev] And even then, only when they are not in a cage. So when can we expect real returns from conversion?

[Volskiy] When the people who are really running the country understand that conversion depends on a real contribution from them. Frankly, the plants are already doing all they can. Of course, you do not need a great brain to change a plant that used to manufacture on-board computer systems for cruise missiles into one that manufactures frying pans. Or a great deal of money either.

[Kosarev] I assume these frying pans are figurative.

[Volskiy] No, they are not figurative, they are real. And there are many cases like this. But fortunately there are many others too. We have launched the production of oil extraction equipment for the development of the Sakhalin shelf, we are putting industrial refrigerators and complex domestic equipment onto the market, and we have found foreign partners. A great deal of interesting work has already been done. But I cannot say that we have forged ahead.

[Kosarev] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers are interested in your opinion about the competitiveness of our defense enterprises.

[Volskiy] I can proudly say that the overwhelming majority of types of output are entirely competitive. I am saying this with full responsibility, and with good reason. High-level delegations from major U.S. industrial firms and the French military-industrial complex have recently visited us. We showed them our plants. They saw many technologies for the very first time. I can claim this also on the basis of the enormous requests for our aviation equipment and other forms of military output that we have received but which we unfortunately cannot sell for various reasons.

[Kosarev] So why were the prices of a number of types of our weapons and military hardware 100 to 1,000 times lower than world prices of equivalent output until recently?

[Volskiy] I am not aware of such figures.

[Kosarev] Mikhail Maley, the Russian president's aide for conversion questions, cited them in an interview.

[Volskiy] Maybe it was a specific case. But I can say that Sukhoi and Mikoyan fighter planes, infantry fighting vehicles, and other equipment are being sold at nearly world-level prices. The point is that after all in the majority of cases we sold equipment on credit and for political reasons. It is now very hard to get these credits back. It sometimes happens that because of competition it is difficult to break into the foreign market. And we would like to. So we have to deliberately lower prices for a certain period of time.

[Kosarev] How do you react to the idea of allowing plants that manufacture weapons to sell them independently?

[Volskiy] Very adversely. I believe that questions of opening up new markets for the arms trade should be resolved by politicians. Giving permission to military enterprises to come out into the foreign market independently would end badly. The weapons would inevitably find their way into the "hot spots" and inflame them even more.

[Kosarev] You are one of the founders of the All-Russian "Renewal" Union which, together with N. Travkin's Democratic Party and A. Rutskoy's People's Party of "Free Russia," has formed the Civic Union. The new political organization has only just emerged, but it has already been referred to as a "directors' lobby" and as the ruling party in Russia. And there are grounds for this. The leaders of the Civic Union do not hide their desire to strengthen their influence in parliament. Reports have been leaked to the press that only four days after its founding, the Civic Union suggested to the Russian president that talks should be initiated on a new cadre policy with the aim of strengthening its position in the government, and that a shadow cabinet is already being formed. What is the ideology of the Civic Union and what is its aim?

[Volskiy] At the constituent conference of the All-Russian "Renewal" Union, we stated resolutely that we uphold the course of reform and we do not intend to oppose it. We are a party of position, not opposition. We will support any rational decisions that are capable of preventing the disintegration of the country, and we will criticize proposals leading to the further impoverishment of the population. Although we understand that "shock therapy" is the only way, we are in favor of alleviating its social consequences. We expressed support for Ye. Gaydar's team and approved the president's new appointments in the government. These people are educated and skilled, and they are doing their job. And even so mistakes have been made. Real transformations in the economy have somehow been undermined by the manipulation of prices and taxes. That is why the Civic Union is in favor of adjusting the government's course in order to overcome the industrial slump, stimulate entrepreneurial activity, and ensure that everyone has an interest in the results of their labor.

We are still having disputes at various levels as to what economic model to use—the Swedish one or some other type. In such cases I always say that we have too few Swedes in our country to put this model into practice. We must do everything in accordance with our conditions. These conditions involve the excessively developed military industry, the lack of any genuine infrastructure, the multiethnic factor... There must be a mechanism that helps us to take all this into account. And we are trying to create one. Our only aim is to lead our country away from the abyss.

[Kosarev] Arkadiy Ivanovich, in an interview on "Ostankino" Television you spoke rather sharply about a number of politicians who resigned recently.

[Volskiy] Yes, I said—and I can repeat this—that I do not understand people who leave a sinking ship first. Either everyone should save this ship together or else they should not have come to power. I really do not understand Shakhrai, Popov, and many others, who run away when they sense danger. If everything was different, if the times were more favorable, you could spit on everything and leave. But not now.

[Kosarev] Thank you for the interview.

Union Intends To Align With Party or Bloc

OW2107223892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2009 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The largest trade union center of Russia - the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] - intends to define its political preferences after choosing a party or block to render support in the future, the chairman of FITUR council Igor Klochkov said in his interview with "IF" [INTERFAX]. He also made the point that the trade unions are interested only in the socio-economic aspects of this cooperation. "We are interested in rendering support at any level of elections to those candidates who adhere to the social policy of the trade unions", Klochkov noted.

According to Klochkov, formation of a strong lobby in parliament will help FITUR to create a powerful instrument for securing its own interests. At present FITUR is holding a series of consultations with different parties and blocks to clarify their positions. Following these consultations the federation will make a political statement, Klochkov promised.

Creation of the Russian Assembly of Social Partnership where a prominent role is played by the leader of the All-Russian Union "Renewal", Arkadiy Volskiy, he qualified as an intermediate stage in the search for a political partner.

"I understand the caution which the government expressed in relation to the creation of the assembly", Igor Klochkov said, "It was to be expected. Trade unions acting by themselves can not be taken into consideration. But a union with businessmen makes it more difficult. The government is forced to take into consideration this alliance".

Agro-Industrial Forum Opposes Insurance Decree

PM2207134192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
21 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pavlov under the "Clear and Concise" rubric: "Decree Does Not Help Rural Dwellers"]

[Text] At a conference held at the Agro-Industrial Complex Trade Union Central Committee, representatives of the agro-industrial complex have failed to back Russian President B. Yeltsin's Decree "On a Russian Federation Social Insurance Fund." A. Biryukov, cochairman of the coordinating council, thinks that it is designed to violate the legal rights and interests of rural dwellers and weaken their social security. Especially if you consider that the legislative acts and normative documents aimed at developing the agro-industrial complex do not make provision for appropriations for medical services and convalescence [ozdorovleniye] for rural workers and their family members.

Farms Hold Out for Higher Grain Prices

MK2207130092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Lantsman under the "Agriculture" rubric: "Battle for Harvest or for Collective Farms?"]

[Text] At the height of the harvest campaign which has begun farms in the main grain-producing regions of Russia (Rostov Oblast, Krasnodar Kray, Stavropol Kray) are one after another putting an ultimatum-type demand to the government to increase grain purchase prices, refusing to transport the harvested crop to the elevators. In many regions chairmen of collective and state farms have set up strike committees. Meanwhile, state granaries are standing empty, and the harvested grain, which in the majority of cases is kept on an open threshing floor, is daily losing its marketable qualities. Only a few farms can boast their own infrastructure for storing the harvest. The situation is being exacerbated by the rain which has begun in southern oblasts.

It should be remembered that this year for the first time the government has abandoned the regulated grain purchase price. On 4 January Boris Yeltsin promulgated the decree on the formation of the state food fund at free market prices. Nevertheless, the government keep state deliveries at the level of 29 million tonnes, or approximately 30 percent of the gross grain harvest. It is for precisely these 29 million tonnes that a war is being waged between the state producers and the state purchasers.

The collective and state farms still virtually have a stranglehold on the agricultural produce monopoly. The share of private farms does not exceed 3-4 percent. Therefore, despite Yeltsin's 4 January decree, the country has no real mechanisms for forming free prices. In this connection the Ministry of Agriculture, the Association of Russian Peasant Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives, and the Peasant Union have jointly calculated an approximate price for grain, proceeding from a forecast of the rate of inflation toward the beginning of 1993 (from 6,000 rubles [R] per tonne for feed grain to R10,000 for the top strains). The government has allocated credit resources to the value of R250 billion for these accounting prices.

In the opinion of Igor Chekmezov, chief of the Grain Purchases Administration of the Bread Products Committee, recommended prices enable farms in the main grain-growing regions to maintain 200 percent profitability with the planned yield. But collective and state farms are demanding a 50-100 percent increase in recommended prices. The farm leaders do not like 200-percent profitability. Under conditions when the state has refused, as before, to write off the billion-ruble debts of agricultural producers, many rural generals are left with a single possibility of covering past debts by means of super high grain prices and avoiding calamity for another year.

Journalists Act on Free Speech 'Emergency'

MK2207113092 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 17 Jul 92 p 1

[Unattributed, untitled report under the "What Is New In Russia" rubric]

[Text] The second issue of OBSHCHAYA GAZETA [common newspaper]—a special joint publication by journalists of democratic editorial offices—appeared on 16 July. It has been called into being by the emergency with regard to freedom of speech owing to the actions of certain forces in the Russian parliament.

Paper To Resume Daily Publication in August

MK2307080292 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
22 Jul 92 p 1

[Statement by Andrey Redkin, commercial director of KURANTY: "KURANTY Is a Daily Newspaper"]

[Text] In recent days readers have begun to wonder: Why has the newspaper appeared only four times a week in July? Has KURANTY's periodicity really changed?

I will reply unequivocally: No, it has not changed. The thing is that every daily newspaper has preplanned days when issues are missed out. This is for reasons of a technical nature. That is the first point. Second, several times in the spring KURANTY was published in "thick," 16-page issues, which, incidentally, the subscriber received for the price of a "thin" issue.

There has been an overexpenditure of paper in our publishing house, which has created the present situation. As of August, however, the newspaper will appear five times a week, as everyone is accustomed to. We also hope that the editorial office will be able to begin the weekly production of "thick" issues on Fridays in August and September. To judge from readers' comments, many people liked them.

Details of Radio Stations, Frequencies Given

LD2107092992 Moscow Golos Rossii World Service
in Russian 1115 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Russia, Moscow—Another new radio station has appeared here. It is called Radio Nadezhda. The station specializes in programs for women. It broadcasts at 1400 utc on the mediumwave band at a frequency of 1539 kHz, and also on a number of frequencies on the 16, 19, 25, and 31 m shortwave bands. The programs are repeated several times a day for all regions of the Commonwealth of Independent States, also on short wave. We do not have any more precise data yet but I will try to find out more about Radio Nadezhda's schedule of frequencies, and I will then give you more details.

The Moscow commercial radio station Rezonans, which is already well-known to our listeners, is now duplicating its programs on mediumwave for listeners in Moscow and Moscow Oblast. It will use a frequency already named today—1539 kHz—when there are no programs by Radio Nadezhda on it. The content of Radio Rezonans' programs, as has already been stated, is mainly of a commercial, advertising, and musical nature. However, some sections feature rather strange statements which border on overt unconstitutionality. I mean the statements directed against the president and chairman of the Russian Cabinet of Ministers. Well, it is up to those who granted Radio Rezonans the right to broadcast to think about this and draw immediate appropriate conclusions.

Moldova: I spent my holidays in Latvia, on the coast of the Baltic Sea, and of course did not part from my receiver. It was possible to receive programs from Radio Pridnestrovye after 1900 utc on a frequency of 999 kHz every day, from the unrecognized Moldovan Dniester Republic. The station is located in the town of Tiraspol. It should be said that throughout almost a month of listening there was not a single day when the reception of programs from Radio Pridnestrovye was not accompanied by interference of a patently artificial origin. Sometimes a high-pitched whistle appeared on this radio station's frequency, sometimes a low-pitched buzzing, sometimes a specific rumble. Sometimes distorted signals from Radio Moldova's first program from Chisinau in Russian and Romanian were heard on this frequency. Often interference in the form of wideband noise was also observed.

Unfortunately I do not have any official information about whether this was deliberate jamming or whether I was simply unlucky and the interference was local. In general, I should not express my own personal political predilections and use broadcasting time to propagate my own personal views. But I would like to say that if this really was deliberate jamming then this is of course illegal, because radio jamming is in contradiction to all existing norms in the human rights sphere with regard to the dissemination and reception of information. Let us

hope that DX Club listeners in Moldova and, in particular, in the Dniester Region will write to us and tell us how things really stand. Write to us.

Incidentally the Russian newspaper IZVESTIYA in its edition of 24 June this year carried a small note by Valeriy Reshetnikov, its correspondent in Moldova, under the heading: "Night broadcasting by Radio Pridnestrovye." This states that Radio Pridnestrovye also operates on another frequency—1494 kHz—and that the programs of this station are constantly interrupted by strong radio interference. This forces one to think that deliberate jamming is taking place. Incidentally, according to other data, another frequency of Radio Pridnestrovye is 1467 kHz.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports on Yeltsin's 21 July meeting with the heads of Russian oblast, kray, and republic administrations, the Defense Ministry leadership, and the commanders of districts, fleets, and groups of forces. The only item on the agenda was "social security for servicemen." Commenting on the lack of cooperation between local executive organs and the military on this issue, Yeltsin complained that "the local authorities often resort to various kinds of tricks" to avoid implementing the 19 February 1992 decree "On Measures To Increase Social Protection for Servicemen." On the other hand, Yeltsin added that the funds allocated for military housing "are insufficient because of the drastic increase in construction costs." Yeltsin said that "a third of Russia's regions" have "failed to implement his decree."

According to a speech delivered by Colonel General V. Dubynin, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, "the number of servicemen on Russian territory who have not been provided with housing totals 104,600 families, while 82,900 families need an improvement in their housing conditions."

At the end of the meeting Yeltsin called for "tough measures" against "those representatives of the administration who have effectively sabotaged implementation of the decree" and "ordered that the reasons for the nonimplementation of the decree be studied within the month and that action be taken against the culprits, up to and including dismissal."

Supreme Soviet

IZVESTIYA Editor, Poltoranin Meet

LD2207175392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting at which serious words were said on the subject of the press, parliament, and government has just finished in the press center of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is what Golembiovskiy, editor in chief of IZVESTIYA, and Poltoranin, minister of the press and information, think about the situation which

has arisen with the IZVESTIYA newspaper and with the Russian parliament's examination of the issue of the media:

[Begin recording] [Golembiovskiy] I believe that IZVESTIYA is not the issue here. IZVESTIYA is nothing more than the first step in the attack against the Russian media. I just do not want to speak only about IZVESTIYA today, although there are grounds to speak of it today. Today Ryabov and Abdulatipov held a new conference at which they confirmed their intention to take IZVESTIYA under the control of the Supreme Soviet, and when the journalists asked by which methods they intend to carry this out, then the first and in my view, the only thing which they stated is that the Supreme Soviet resolution must be implemented by state officials, meaning Mikhail Nikiforovich Poltoranin, and I would presume that they take the view that if the Ministry of the Press does not carry out their instructions, then it is possible that Russia will have a new Minister of Information.

I do not know whether or not to offer my congratulations on this, but the main thing is that the Supreme Soviet leaders are standing by their own view that everything which exists in Russia is under their authority, and their authority only, although their function is to be law-makers, and primarily, they should protect the law. But we have to deal with them in situations when the lawmakers themselves violate the laws which they have adopted.

[Poltoranin] In principle, there is nothing terrible in this, and it is out of the ordinary when from time to time the tension between the fourth estate, the media, and some other branch of authority reaches its apogee, and then this tension subsides. But such ups and downs take place in all democratic states depending upon the situation, and depending upon which scandals arise in the press. Here, we also view this as normal, but it is another matter when all branches of authority operate strictly within the framework of the law, for example the second estate—the executive authority, and here I touch wood, but I must tell you that it is with the executive authority today—although this is strange, as throughout history it is with the executive authority that conflicts and clashes with the press have taken place,—but it is with them that we have the fewest clashes. On the contrary, we are receiving financial and legal aid and aid for the media from the executive authority, presidential decrees and government decrees. And it is between parliament and the press that these clashes have today reached their culmination. [end recording]

Poltoranin on 'Unlawful' IZVESTIYA Ruling

LD2207180292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1731 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS—Russian Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin will not fulfil the decision of the parliament concerning the "IZVESTIYA" newspaper as it is "an unlawful one."

His ministry will appeal to the Constitutional Court as soon as the parliamentary decision to take over the most influential daily is formulated, Poltoranin said at a press conference on Wednesday [22 July].

The Russian parliament changed the status of the newspaper last Friday making it its own publication. "IZVESTIYA" used to be the newspaper of the Soviet parliament, but gained independence after the August coup. The parliament instructed the Information Ministry to re-register the newspaper.

A group of parliamentarians also wants to appeal to the Constitutional Court against the parliamentary decision, according to Poltoranin. Lawyers Sergey Shakhrai and Andrey Makarov "offered to protect our interests in court," he added. Shakhrai and Makarov are currently defending in the Constitutional Court the decrees of the Russian president banning the Communist Party.

Poltoranin believes "arm twisting" will begin to force the ministry to re-register "IZVESTIYA" and make it a parliamentary publication.

The conflict between the parliament and the press has reached its peak because the parliament had moved to the right and there are many people in it who want to get hold of property, both material and intellectual, which the parliament cannot subordinate.

Although the case with "IZVESTIYA" is "just the beginning" of a campaign against the free press, Poltoranin does not believe the parliament will win. "All of us who treasure the freedom of the press have to be vigilant and resort to preventive measures," he warned.

"IZVESTIYA" editor-in-chief Igor Golembiovskiy, who attended the press conference, said the attack on his newspaper is the first step in the offensive on free press.

Observation of Media Resolution To Be Ensured

OW2207181092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1700 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Parliament has been debating "Izvestiya" in conjunction with the need to provide the Supreme Soviet with a press organ to cover the implementation of the Federal agreement. This was revealed on Wednesday [22 July] at a press conference in Moscow by Nikolay Ryabov, the Chairman of the Republican Council of the Russian Parliament.

Ryabov told an Interfax correspondent that he did not know whether or not the resolution on "Izvestiya," which had been passed by Parliament on Friday, had yet been endorsed by the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Kasbulatov.

The resolution authorises the newspaper's transfer to the jurisdiction of the Russian Parliament.

Commenting on the recent statement of the Russian Minister of Press and Information, Mikhail Poltoranin, who expressed doubt as to whether the resolution would be observed, Ryabov, said: "We would lose our self-respect if the Ministry failed to carry out our decisions." He stressed that if the leaders of separate institutions were going to manifestly ignore resolutions passed by the representative authorities, then the Supreme Soviet would "either find ways of making them carry out these decisions or request that they resign from service to the state".

Ramazan Abdulatipov, Speaker of the Supreme Soviet Council for Nationalities, pointed out that Parliament ought not to have dealt with the political and ideological aspects of "Izvestiya", but should have concentrated only on the infractions of legislation committed at the time of its registration.

Free Democrats on Free Speech 'Encroachment'

MK2207130592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 22 Jul 92 p 2

[NG report: "Free Democratic Party of Russia for Freedom of Speech"]

[Text] The following resolution on the parliamentary hearings on the mass media was adopted at a plenum of the Republic Council of the Free Democratic Party of Russia [FDPR] held in St. Petersburg: "Without entering into a debate on the subject of 'bad parliament—good president,' the FDPR Republic Council believes that under conditions when the country's top legislative organ is encroaching on one of the basic civil liberties—freedom of speech, which is enshrined in the Constitution and in the Declaration of Human and Civil Rights and Freedoms—the state is casting doubt on its right to demand that its citizens obey the law."

Behavior in IZVESTIYA Affair Deplored

PM2307113992 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 21 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Lyubov Tsukanova: "The Renaming Washington Affair"]

[Text] On the final day of the session the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet ruled that the status of the newspaper IZVESTIYA be changed. Now, according to the parliamentarians, it is to be the paper of Russian soviets of people's deputies.

"What will you do?" IZVESTIYA people were asked immediately after the historic decision. "Nothing," they replied. "What do you think they should do," Press and Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin said. "Imagine if the Supreme Soviet were to decide tomorrow to rename the city of Washington. Would Bush do it right away?"

I don't know about Bush, but anything can happen here. Not long ago the Turkmenia Supreme Soviet decided that the name of their capital, in Russian (!), should be written Ashgabat, not Ashkhabad. The Russian media swiftly, and even with a certain eager delight, set about implementing the instructions of a foreign parliament, which, moreover, had interfered in the sphere of orthography, over which it had absolutely no authority, indeed the orthography of a foreign language.

By adopting the resolution on IZVESTIYA's new status, the Supreme Soviet violated at least two of its own laws: on the division of power—by taking over administrative and judicial functions; and on the press, which lays down a very clear procedure for the founding of media, envisaging at least the medium's consent to having a particular founder. The calls by the sober-minded section of the body of deputies "not to make people laugh" had no effect: There was a great desire to show that parliament can do anything. But that is the point: In a rule-of-law state parliament cannot do anything it likes! It can only do what it is allowed to do by law. Even if it invented the law itself. To be more precise, particularly as it adopted the law itself.

Alas, we are very good at not implementing laws. Why maintain this bad tradition by issuing bad laws?

Commentary on Media Protection Resolution

MK2207130292 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
21 Jul 92 p 3

["V.G." report: "Will It Be Possible To Breathe More Easily?"]

[Text] It was hardly a simple coincidence that on 16 July—the day Boris Yeltsin met with leaders of the mass media—Yegor Gaydar signed a resolution on legal and economic protection measures for the periodical press and state book publishing. All newspapers are choking today in the economic noose thrown around their necks, above all by the paper producers.

There now seems to be hope that it will be possible to breathe more easily. The Ministry of Finance has been instructed to provide budget funds within the current year for emergency financial assistance to be given to children's, teenagers', and young people's publications, to publications for invalids, and also to newspapers and magazines with an educational, cultural, or enlightenment purpose. At the same time it is planned to attract credits for a government guarantee to the value of up to \$150 million for the purchase of paper and card.

A barrier is also being erected in the way of unlimited prices. Henceforth, when monopoly producers of raw materials and semimanufactures for editorial offices form the prices for their output, they must lay down a profitability norm not in excess of 25 percent of its production cost.

The Ministry of Justice together with the Ministry of the Press and Information has been entrusted with submitting to the government before 1 October a draft law on the professional rights, freedoms, and obligations of press workers for its further examination in the Supreme Soviet.

One thing is worrying. This resolution appeared in fulfillment of B. Yeltsin's corresponding decree of 20 February. It took five months to prepare. How long will it take to implement it?

Voronin on Presidential Draft Laws Endorsement

LD2207153392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1709 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Alexey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS—Yuri Voronin, deputy chairman of the Russian parliament, denied allegations that the Russian parliament declined most of the draft laws prepared by the Russian president, at a news conference held in Moscow on Wednesday [22 July].

Voronin said that the fourth session of the Russian parliament discussed a total of 533 items, adopted 130 laws and 153 resolutions. Voronin pointed out that 34 out of 48 draft laws, submitted by the Russian president, were endorsed.

When asked about the relations between the government and the parliament, Voronin noted that "there is no ground for talks of confrontation. While discussing economic issues we come to terms 90 per cent," Voronin said.

Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the chamber of the Republic, said that tension and misunderstanding in the relations between the executive and the legislative power appear as a result of such actions as appointing officials to key posts without consulting the parliament.

Most of the questions were focused on the parliament's resolution about the "IZVESTIYA" newspaper, adopted on July 17. Voronin believes "a problem of property" lies at the bottom of the conflict.

His opinion was shared by the Chairman of the Chamber of Nationalities, Ramazan Abdulatipov, who added that "it was not worth going into politico-ideological aspects" of the problem.

Ryabov, in his turn, said that "in case some leaders of executive bodies openly ignore decisions of the supreme legislative power, the parliament will find the means to make them obey these decisions, or else ask them to leave their posts".

According to Ryabov, the parliament's resolution has nothing to do with censorship, infringements on the rights of the press or its discrimination.

It is aimed only at the creation of a legal basis for the activity of the media and its economic support, Ryabov pointed out.

Mironov Address on CFE Implementation

*PM2007100092 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 17 Jul 92 p 3*

["Own information" report: "Colonel General Valeriy Mironov: Implementation of CFE Treaty Will Ensure Consolidation of Universal Security"]

[Text] As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has ratified the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and the Tashkent agreement on the principles and procedure for its fulfillment. During the discussion Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, Russian deputy defense minister, delivered a speech.

He noted that the main aims of the CFE Treaty signed in Paris 19 November are the reduction of the level of military potentials in Europe and a substantial reduction of the potential for extensive offensive operations and a surprise attack.

The Paris treaty is unique, it has no analogues. Its entry into force strengthens stability and enhances the predictability and transparency of military activity and creates a qualitatively new military-political situation in Europe in the vast region from the Atlantic to the Urals. Prospects are opened up for creating a reliable and all-embracing system of European security based not on military might but on trust and cooperation between all states of Europe, the United States, and Canada.

The deputy defense minister paid special attention to the treaty's operational-strategic substantiation. Colonel General V. Mironov noted that this document is one of the main factors influencing the building of the Russian armed forces. But since it was signed there have been big changes in the military-political situation in Europe. To some extent the treaty no longer reflects the realities of the present day and not all its provisions fully satisfy us. But in no circumstances should it be regarded as a document which undermines Russia's security.

First, the treaty, which clearly defines national and regional levels for conventional arms, promotes the establishment of guidelines for elaborating Russia's military policy and the concept for building and developing its armed forces. According to the General Staff's calculations, the quantity of arms and equipment set for Russia fully ensures the creation and formation of mobile formations and units according with the criteria of defensive sufficiency. All this accords with the present policy of the leadership of the country and the armed forces. We proceed from the premise that in the present political and economic situation it is politically inexpedient and economically burdensome to maintain large armed forces.

That is why, Colonel General V. Mironov stressed, a course has been steered toward reforming and building Russia's armed forces over an eight-year period (through the year 2000). It is planned to reduce the numerical strength of the armed forces on Russia's territory and the territories taken under its jurisdiction from 2.8 million to 2.1 million in 1995 and 1.5 million in 2000. This approach will make it possible to destroy the arms and equipment envisaged by the CFE Treaty, above all the obsolete models, and at the same time to reduce the personnel.

Second, the conventional armed forces of all signatory states and in particular the NATO states are being substantially restricted. The tough regional restrictions imposed for arms and equipment, especially in Central Europe and the North and South regions, will substantially reduce the danger of the concentration of troops close to Russia's borders.

The implementation of the treaty in full—the reduction of arms and equipment by one third—means a considerable reduction to the combat potential of virtually all signatory states. Thus, by the end of the period of reductions the United States plans to reduce its grouping in Europe to 100,000-150,000 servicemen. As early as 1991 the combat personnel of the U.S. ground forces in Europe was reduced from four to two divisions. There are also considerable restrictions on the numerical strength of the numerical strength of the FRG's bundeswehr, which by 1995 will be no more than 370,000 men.

In conjunction with the accords in the field of the control and restriction of military activity, this will ensure the further consolidation of universal security, which is particularly important against the background of a certain intensification of instability in Europe.

The speech also noted that the implementation of the CFE Treaty creates firm material prerequisites for continuing dialogue in the field of disarmament.

In conclusion Colonel General V. Mironov noted that the national levels of conventional arms set for Russia will not damage the state's security and in conjunction with the Strategic Forces will ensure the guaranteed fulfillment of defense tasks under any conditions.

Decision on Yugoslavia Sanctions Defended

*PM2007132992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 6*

[Letter from Ye.Yu. Guskova, doctor of historical sciences and expert on the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Committee, under the general headline "From the International Department Mailbags": "Why Supreme Soviet Did Not Support Sanctions"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA (No. 153) published a letter from N.D. Smirnova 2 July criticizing the Russian Supreme

Soviet and its International Affairs Committee for challenging the vote cast by Russia's representative in the U.N. Security Council supporting sanctions against Yugoslavia. The letter, which casts doubt over the professionalism of those who briefed the Supreme Soviet session, wounded me personally as well as the specialists involved in the work. After all, Russian Federation Supreme Soviet experts on the Yugoslav problem have been involved in a professional capacity with Yugoslavia for many years.

Let us note first and foremost that the article by Supreme Soviet International Affairs Committee Chairman Ye. Ambartsumov (IZVESTIYA No. 150), which was the primary focus of N.D. Smirnova's attention, reports the Supreme Soviet's decision by no means in an emotional way, as she claims, but calmly and objectively. But the problem has nothing to do with Ambartsumov but with the position of the Supreme Soviet, which made justified alterations to Foreign Ministry activity by referring to irrefutable facts and documents recognized even by the United Nations.

N.D. Smirnova calls into question the fact that a 30,000-strong Croatian force and Muslim detachments are at war in Bosnia and Hercegovina, in doing so clearly confusing the Serbian Army in Bosnia and Hercegovina with the Yugoslav Army, which was withdrawn from Bosnia and Hercegovina back on 19 May.

Sarajevo, which is controlled by Muslim forces, is ringed by Serbian troops who are engaged in a relentless battle with them. By condemning the Serbian side for firing on Sarajevo, the Supreme Soviet deputies took due account of their having left Belgrade's subordination long ago, and of the fact that all the warring sides in Bosnia and Hercegovina are responsible for the hostilities there. The territories controlled by Croatian troops are directly subordinate to Zagreb, and they even use Croatian banknotes and Croatian symbols. The Supreme Soviet deputies drew attention to the fact that it is actually the Serbian Army in Bosnia and Hercegovina which has repeatedly declared a unilateral cease-fire, and this has not been supported by any of the other sides.

The facts indicate that sanctions have complicated the situation in the whole region, and that they have narrowed opportunities for dialogue and placed Serbia and Montenegro at a disadvantage among international subjects. It is for this reason that the Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution "On Joint Action To Settle the Yugoslav Crisis," which tasks the Foreign Ministry with studying the possibility of raising in the UN Security Council a question on reducing the volume of sanctions against Yugoslavia or introducing a moratorium on their application, and with maintaining a balanced approach to all sides engaged in military activity on the territory of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

[signed] Ye.Yu. Guskova, doctor of historical sciences and expert on the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Committee

Cossack Rehabilitation Question Left Undecided

PM2007103192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 16 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Olga Burkaleva under the general heading: "Fourth Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session. Question of Rehabilitation of Cossacks Not Decided"]

[Text] The White House—The 15 July morning session was chaired by Ruslan Khasbulatov. It was decided, as on Tuesday [14 July], not to make any supplement to the agenda and to get down to work without losing time. The first question, on amending the Law "On Subsidies to the the Russian Federation's Constituent Republics, Krays, Oblasts, Autonomous Oblast, Autonomous Okrugs, and the Cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg" in connection with the president's proposal to amend it, was examined and decided quite quickly. The discussion process in the case of this question can be cited as an example of constructive and harmonious work between the presidential structures, the government, and the Supreme Soviet. The document, presented by the Vladimir Podoprigora, chairman of the Committee for Questions of Interrepublic Relations, Regional Policy, and Cooperation, elicited only one editorial comment. Ruslan Orekhov, deputy chief of the President's State Legal Administration, spoke on behalf of the president. He informed deputies of the president's proposal, which may be formulated as follows: All subsidies should be budget-financed; the institution of nonbudget subsidies should be ruled out. V. Podoprigora, who spoke next, reported that the committee, while rejecting this proposal, had concretized the institution of nonbudget subsidies and limited their sphere of application. It was in connection with this that the appropriate amendments to the law were proposed. The very concept of subsidies was considered. It is financial aid to the Russian Federation's constituent republics, krays, oblasts, autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg from the federal budget and non-budget funds, aimed at narrowing the gap in the level of socioeconomic development of the regions of the Russian Federation. A mechanism for granting investment subsidies from the federal budget was introduced. This was done in connection and in line with the adoption of the Federal Treaty.

The second question on the agenda—on the draft resolution "On the Rehabilitation of the Cossacks"—was left undecided. It is hard to say what had more influence on the resolution's not being adopted—the imprecisely elaborated documents submitted for the Supreme Soviet's examination, or secret currents of political struggle. Some observations on the draft resolution were not formulated in the form of amendments to its texts, but looked like a wish list. It is well known that these kinds of observations from the Supreme Soviet are not examined. They should be analyzed by the committee or commission preparing the document at the drafting stage, before it is submitted in session. However, the Commission for Repressed and Deported Peoples was

set up only recently, and has evidently not yet acquired sufficient experience. This impression was also given by the way in which Anatoliy Anikeyev, chairman of this commission, presented the amendments to the draft resolution. The draft was not adopted as a basis to work from, and deputies, as indeed is proper, began to examine the amendments to each point separately. But, as the vote showed, the deputies' corps has still not yet worked out a clear, unequivocal position on the question of the cossacks. A simple example: The draft document does not even contain a definition of the cossacks. One learned only from Anikeyev's words what the drafters of the document meant by the term "cossacks' socioeconomic life style." But if there is no such explanation in the text of the document, the possibility cannot be excluded that other people will be able to invest these words with a different meaning.

Subclauses and their sections went through several votes. In the final analysis deputies became thoroughly confused, and the resolution was not adopted. True, Martynov, hetman of the Union of Cossacks, in his speech expressed the fear that if the Supreme Soviet adopts the resolution with all the proposed amendments, it would be one more "anticossack act." The problem evidently lies in not infringing the rights of other peoples while rehabilitating the cossacks. This question is still to be decided by the Supreme Soviet. So far the balance in this delicate question has not been found.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Begins Three-Day Tour of Russia 22 Jul

Arrives in Krasnodar

LD2207100392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0941 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Armavir July 22 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Armavir on Wednesday [22 July] morning—the first stopover in his three-day tour of Russia.

"Initially, I did not plan to visit the Krasnodar region, but the agricultural situation in the area is too complex. The region, which accounts for six per cent of grain lands in Russia has been badly hit by floods, hail and other calamities," Yeltsin said on arrival at Armavir's military airport.

Yeltsin said he plans to inspect the Rostselmash agricultural machinery manufacturer and discuss ways of helping the plant, which produced the much-needed harvesters. Yeltsin blasted economic minister Andrey Nechayev's proposal to shut Rostselmash down.

Commenting on the next stages of his tour, Yeltsin spoke about mounting social tensions in the Kalmyk Republic.

Commenting on purchasing prices for bread Yeltsin said: "Our position is firm: Ten roubles for a kilo." The price satisfies most people, although some producers

insist on 13 roubles, he said. Alarming, the Krasnodar Region which has three million tonnes of grain has provided only 164,000 tonnes to the state, Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin then went on to meet Kuban Cossacks, who complained about a lack of proper control on Russian borders. Yeltsin agreed that measures should be taken to stop uncontrollable export of raw materials and goods from Russia. Priority should be given to setting up borders with Baltic states. Azerbaijan will be next.

Yeltsin opposed closing border with Ukraine, because millions of Russians live there. The Russian Government is discussing setting up a border with Georgia, he said.

Commenting on relations with Ukraine, Yeltsin said: "There is just one issue which Leonid Kravchuk and I have not resolved following (the) Dagomys (summit)—the Black Sea Fleet." Yeltsin said he would probably have to meet Kravchuk to discuss the issue once again.

Commenting on recent attempts to bring Russia's free press to heel, Yeltsin spoke strongly in favor of the freedom of speech. "I, too, have complaints against them (reporters) but to abandon this achievement—free press—is inadmissible," Yeltsin said.

From the military airport Yeltsin flew to the new Kuban Region where he was shown new harvesting machinery produced by Rostselmash. He then toured the Kuban Agricultural Engineering Research Institute. Yeltsin also met local leaders and industrial managers to discuss the future of Russian agricultural engineering.

Later on Wednesday Yeltsin is expected to fly from Armavir to Elista.

Inspects Kuban Farms

LD2207165992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Report by correspondent S. Medvedev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The weather has not been favorable to Kuban bread-grain growers during this harvest. Eighty percent of the crops have been flattened, a considerable part of wheat has been damaged by hail. The Don combine harvesters are rescuing the situation. Had not it been for them, the bread-grain of one of the main granaries of Russia would have been lost.

Immediately after a brief conversation with the kray's leaders at a military aerodrome, Boris Yeltsin set off for the fields of Novokubanskiy rayon where new Don combine harvesters were being tested. Of course, it is not only for meeting with the management that he has come here. A thorough conversation with residents took place in the village of Glubokiy. Farming has become more difficult, and prices for both equipment and goods in the shops are the main problem. A woman even made a joke to the effect that it has become too expensive to have children.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] First, do have children. You will get 2,700 rubles for each newborn baby. [laughter from the crowd] Of course, it is not very much, I know. Further, regarding prices, the first thing we have done—we have reduced taxes. [end recording]

I do not promise a paradise, the president said, but prices will soon stop rising so fast, and things will become better. Regarding land, we have a firm policy here.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] It has been your land from time immemorial, you live on it; those who wish to have their own land should do so, those who wish to separate from a state or collective farm and to have an individual plot of land should take a plot and work on it, there are no problems here. Those who wish to stay with a collective of state farm are free to do so, too. [end recording]

The specialists who showed the Rostselmash's [Rostov agricultural machinery works] latest technologies to the Russian president maintained that it is enough to have 150,000 Don combine harvesters in the country to be able to forego almost all bread-grain purchases abroad. The thing is, however, that a new combine costs already about 2 million rubles. The egoism of suppliers, mostly from Ukraine, who are pushing prices up, shows. The president agreed that a law on grain is urgently needed; incidentally, it will stipulate halving prices for agricultural machinery. A program for combine harvester building will be approved within two weeks.

But what about purchase prices for grain? It is known what upsetting effect their current low level has had upon Russian peasants. The state will pay 10 rubles for grain, but this covers only a third of the grown crop.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] And as for the rest, you are free to go to the exchanges; it may be 15 rubles or 20 rubles, depending on your bargaining. That is, the remaining grain is yours. If earlier up to 70 percent or even 75 percent were taken away, now the figure is 30 or 35 percent. [end recording]

This afternoon President Yeltsin arrived in Kalmykia.

Arrives in Kalmykia

LD2207162192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1430 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By special ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Nikolay Styazhkin, and Pavel Shamrayev]

[Text] Elista, 22 Jul—Making a working trip to regions of Russia, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin arrived in the Republic of Kalmykia today. At the Elista airport, talking with journalists, he briefly summed up the results of his visit to Krasnodar kray which has just ended. "People in the Kuban are very happy and hospitable, and the mood is normal there; no sharp extremist tendencies exist at this current, difficult period of reforms, said Boris Yeltsin. The area sown to grain crops in Krasnodar kray is large—some five percent of the

Russian area. The total grain harvest is expected to amount to 9 million tonnes. What has been provided for in the plans will be sold to the state, at a price of 10,000 rubles per tonne."

A draft "law on grain" has been prepared. Boris Yeltsin stated that he had already submitted it to the Supreme Soviet. It is the president's view that the provision of equipment for agricultural work began sharply to lag behind following the abolition of the Ministry of Agricultural Machinery. That is why a program for the building of combines has also been prepared. "As for Kalmykia, stressed the Russian president, thanks for a beautiful reception—it is a manifestation of the rich ethnic culture of the Kalmyk people."

The history of Kalmykia is complex with many upheavals. The republic very seriously lags behind in social and economic terms. This anomaly must be put right. "That is why, at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of Kalmykia, I arrived here with a number of ministers. It will not be possible to resolve the complexities of the economy and social infrastructure quickly, within a year. It is possible that a number of documents will already be signed here. As far as other problems are concerned, instructions will be issued to the Russian Government so that a good momentum is given to righting the anomalies," said Boris Yeltsin.

The program for the Russian president's stay in the Republic of Kalmykia provides for a visit to the republican children's hospital, where some three years ago there was an outbreak of the AIDS epidemic among children. Subsequently, Boris Yeltsin will meet the work force of the joint enterprise called "Agroengineering" which specializes in leather and fur processing. On 23 July, the Russian president will have meetings with farmers in Yashkulskiy rayon and see the route of the Volga-Chogray canal, the construction of which has been stopped. The president's stay in Kalmykia will end with a meeting with the republican aktiv.

Comments on Discussing Navy Fleet

LD2207175192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Talking today in Krasnodar kray with representatives of the administration and the Cossacks, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin remarked that he intends to propose to his Ukrainian colleague Kravchuk that the issue of the Navy fleet be examined at the presidential level.

To Sign Decree in Kalmykia

LD2207175592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Russia's leadership intends to take urgent measures aimed at helping Kalmykia to solve acute socioeconomic problems in the republic, including its ecological problems. Boris Yeltsin said this in his answer to a RIA correspondent's question on his arrival in Kalmykia on

22 July. The Russian president pointed out that it is one of the most backward republics in terms of social development. For decades its problems have not been receiving proper attention. This distortion should be corrected, Boris Yeltsin said. The RIA correspondent learned that Boris Yeltsin intends to sign a decree on 23 July on taking urgent measures aimed at resolving socio-economic problems in Kalmykia. It is also expected that an intergovernmental agreement on economic cooperation will be signed between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kalmykia.

Comments on Grain Figures

LD2207212892 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Report by S. Shibalkov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] This morning, while en route to Kalmykia and Omsk oblast, Boris Yeltsin made a five-hour stop in the Kuban. At the military air base of Armavir, where his airplane landed, Boris Yeltsin replied to journalists' questions. The main ones touched on bread prices. [passage omitted]

Commenting upon this situation, Boris Yeltsin said:

[Begin recording] What is alarming is that, although Krasnodar Kray already has three million tons of grain today, it has given the state 164,000 tons. It's not clear what sort of a position this is and today I'll put some pressure on them over this. [end recording]

In the middle of the day, the president visited the Kuban scientific research institute for testing tractors and agricultural machinery. He was briefed on the Don class of harvest combines and new models of agricultural equipment. Peskov, general director of the Rostov Agricultural Machinery production association, advertising the Dons, tried to convince the president that only by giving priority to motor vehicles of such a class would it be possible to resolve the problems of the Russian harvest. [passage omitted]

As far as concerns the critical situation which has arisen at many agricultural machine-building enterprises due to the rupture of economic links, and in particular, with Ukraine, Boris Yeltsin stressed that Russia should be guided by its own efforts now and this sector should make wider use of the possibilities of conversion.

Visits Krasnodar Territory

OW2207214092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1703 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By INTERFAX special correspondent Boris Grishenko in Krasnodar; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin arriving in the town of Armavir this morning told reporters that he added the place to his

itinerary because of the significant role that the Kuban region played in Russia's life, socially and economically.

Yeltsin said he was worried that the territory which had already reaped about 3 mln [million] tonnes of grain had sold the state a mere 164,000 tonnes. He said he would meet with the local administration to discuss the issue. Yeltsin said wheat prices had now evened running between Rbl 12 [rubles] and Rbl 13.5, with stock market price being even lower than that. Yeltsin is hopeful that the grain problem will be resolved amicably.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The territory's chief administrator, Vasily Dyakonov, told IF that this year's yield could be affected by recent hailstorms and floods. However, he said the target of 4 tonnes of wheat per hectare was feasible. Dyakonov also spoke of social tension and economic hardships, with political temperatures running high because of the large influx of refugees [as received]. He complained about attacks on his administration by neo-Bolshevik forces.

The question of Russian borders was raised more often than others during the president's informal chats the residents of several villages. Local Cossacks told Yeltsin that Russia must demarcate its own borders as soon as possible offering their help in the protection of frontiers. For his part, the president spoke of 20 patrol units being moved yesterday to guard the country's border with the Baltic states adding that the establishment of border controls with Azerbaijan would come next. However, he said that apart from the function of export controls, the issue also had a political aspects. Yeltsin said Russia's borders with the former Soviet republics would have a different degree of transparency, with preference given to customs controls along the border with Ukraine because of its huge Russian-speaking community.

On relations between Russia and Ukraine, the president said that he and the Ukrainian leader, Leonid Kravchuk, had reached agreement in Dagomys on almost all issues, apart from the question about the future of the Black Sea Fleet.

Yeltsin had next visited the farmfields of the Novo-Kuban regions and was shown new generation farm equipment by Rosselmash manufacturers. As he examined the equipment, Yeltsin quoted the economics minister, Nechayev, as saying recently that Rosselmash must be closed and its 50,000 workforce sacked. The president said he disagreed with this view calling for everything to be done to increase output after improving the quality of machinery and equipment for the countryside. He pledged his help in doing so. Yeltsin stressed the need for a national programme of farm equipment production.

Inspects Abandoned Canal Area

LD2307101592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0927 GMT 23 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Luydmila Aleksandrova, Nikolay Styazhkin, Pavel Shamrayev]

[Text] Elista, Republic of Kalmykia July 23 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin, who arrived in Elista on Wednesday [22 July], familiarized himself with the state of farming in the republic.

He began his morning with a helicopter trip to inspect part of the Volga-Chogray Canal the construction of which was suspended a few years ago. The abandoned canal area has turned into an ecological disaster area with millions of cubic meters of sand dug out of the virgin land of the Steppes carried by wind to the once lavish pasture lands-turned desert.

The president was shocked by the sight of ecological damage done to the fertile black-earth area of millions of hectares near the Caspian Sea. Mismanagement turned much of the area into a semi-desert wilderness.

The president then had a substantial discussion of ways to revive the area with the Kalmyk leaders and specialists of the agro-industrial complex.

In the afternoon, The president is due to fly to Omsk (western Siberia) on the last leg of his three-day tour of Russia.

Record Harvest Expected in Stavropol Kray

PM2207132192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Jul 92 First Edition p 3

[AEN report: "Grain Remains in Kray"]

[Text] That is what Stavropol Administration Head Ye. Kuznetsov stated on 14 July at a conference with leaders of the agro-industrial complex. Under compulsory delivery arrangements just 550,000 tonnes will be delivered to the state at set prices, that is about one tenth of the expected harvest. The remainder will stay on the farms.

The mass harvest of grain crops is now at its very height in Stavropol Kray. The torrential downpours in May and June damaged 200,000 hectares of grain crops but it is expected that the harvest will be a record one—about 5 million tonnes. In this connection the exchange trade in grain of the new harvest is being activated.

'Good' Grain Harvest Expected in Smolensk

PM2307105392 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 20 92

[Report by V. Vengrzhnovskiy and N. Zhitkov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Vengrzhnovskiy] The hot summer in Smolensk Oblast promises a good grain crop. Potatoes, on the other hand, are in danger of wilting. Grasses have turned out well. True, the biomass is not very great, but the quality of hay is high. To date some 60 percent of hay, and slightly less cured hay and silage have been procured in the oblast. Units producing vitaminized grass meal are hard at work.

The oblast administration has spent a lot of money providing the agrarian sector with petroleum products. Therefore there have been no stoppages due to fuel shortages in Smolensk Oblast so far. But the machinery in the fields is old. Private farmers cannot afford anything else. The ingenious ones are adapting and making use of anything they can get hold of, including obsolete grain harvesters.

Tuva Private Farmers Boost Republic's Output

PM2307104192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
22 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[AEN report: "Tuva's Private Farmers Step Up Production of Agricultural Produce"]

[Text] The number of private farms in the Republic of Tuva has trippled since the beginning of the year and now totals 615. Each private farmer on average has 128 hectares of land.

In 1991, private farms accounted for 7 percent of the agricultural production in the republic. "We plan for this figure to rise to 22 percent this year. In particular, we are aiming to produce 30, 25, 30, and 20 percent respectively of the meat, milk, wool, and grain," Dorzhu Shozhat, president of the Tuva private farming association, said.

Lawmakers: Agricultural Situation 'Disastrous'

LD2207200792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] In a message addressed to the Russian Government today, Moscow lawmakers describe the situation in agriculture as disastrous. The address notes that the poultry stock has been cut by 20 percent, the output of dairy products has dropped by 26 percent, meat by 10 percent and the production of eggs went down by 10 percent.

The lawmakers blame this plight on the shortsighted policy of prices liberalization, ruinous for the farmers, and on excessive haste with state and collective farms reorganization.

International Affairs

Morozov Comments on Black Sea Ship Incident

LD2207210192 Kiev *Ukrayinske Telebachennya*
Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Ukraine's Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov made a statement today concerning events in the Black Sea. We are broadcasting it in full.

[Begin Morozov recording] [passage omitted] According to the commander of the ship, what forced the crew to take unsanctioned actions was the unlawful actions of the command of the Black Sea Fleet in the absence of decisions on the fleet at the state commission level. In this connection, the Defense Ministry of Ukraine has to make a resolute protest to the actions of the command of the Black Sea Fleet and a demand to immediately stop unlawful actions toward the citizens of Ukraine undergoing military service in their state. [passage omitted]

Disregarding the legal basis of Ukraine's consideration of (these particular) directions, the Russian side makes its claims to part of the Black Sea Fleet including the infrastructure and not agreeing to a separate basing of the forces; it brings the negotiations to a deadlock. Under these conditions, among the personnel of the fleet, discontent about the process of the negotiations grows and doubts appear about the possibility of solving this problem by political means.

In the majority of cases, it is self-determination by officers, ship crews, and units. The personnel who have sworn allegiance to Ukraine is punished, their rights and freedoms, guaranteed by the Constitution and the laws of their state, are badly violated in the land of their fathers. As a sign of protest and proceeding from the wish to attract attention to their problems, disobedience is shown by ship crews. This leads to escalation of unlawful actions on the part of the command of the Black Sea Fleet.

Thus, Admiral Kasatonov warns in his telegram of the readiness to continue to take resolute measures, and of possible identical actions of crews by opposite political forces. The situation has developed into obvious confrontation with a high probability of conflicts being solved using weapons. Sharp necessity has ripened to reconsider their positions for the people who are involved in the issue of the Black Sea Fleet, to reconsider them from the position of personal responsibility for the aggravation of the situation and the possibility of consequences.

Viewing the status of the independent state of Ukraine as temporary—in connection with, allegedly, mistakes of its leadership—those who force the personnel to preserve the mythical unity of the fleet on somebody else's land, make officers, warrant officers, and sailors hostages to their political ambitions, deprive them of elementary rights and force them to lift one hand up against another. [passage omitted]

We are not clinging to the fleet; we are defending the integrity of our state. The position of Ukraine is just. [passage omitted] We do not belong to a military bloc; we do not deploy our troops on the territory of other states. There should not be troops belonging to other states on our territory. We will solve this question by negotiations. We are ready to compromise, to show goodwill, but never to divide Ukraine. It is indivisible and inviolable. Thank you. [end recording]

Byelarus, Ukraine View Military Coordination

OW2007190492 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English
1638 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Colonel-General Petr Chaus, the Byelarusian Deputy Minister of Defence, told Interfax that air-defence co-ordination, use of airspace and the operation and renovation of weaponry and military technology had been discussed at a meeting in Kiev of delegations from the Byelarusian and Ukrainian Ministries of Defence.

Chaus said that matters concerning social security for military personnel and collaboration over providing highly trained military specialists for the national armies were also on the agenda. The Deputy Minister stated that special bilateral agreements in all these areas would be signed by the military authorities of both states.

Chaus said that the next meeting between representatives of the Byelarusian and Ukrainian armed forces would take place in Minsk at the beginning of August. There, "many issues affecting future collaboration would be discussed", he said.

German Experts To Help in Nuclear Inspection

AU2207105492 Kiev *HOLOS UKRAYINY* in Ukrainian
16 July 92 p 4

[Commentary by Zhofef Shapoval, associate at the Scientific and Technological Center for Nuclear and Radiation Safety at Ukraine's State Atomic Inspection Office: "Atomic Electric Power Plants Will Be Inspected by Germans"]

[Text] International contacts established by Ukraine's State Atomic Inspection office are becoming increasingly strong.

The visit by the delegation from the German Federal Ministry of Environmental Protection, Nature Protection, and Nuclear Reactor Safety, and from the Society for Safety of Reactors was also fruitful.

A cooperation agreement has been reached between inspection bodies of the two countries on fostering the development of safety regulations at atomic electric power plants that operate in Ukraine and on organizing systematic training, exchange, and probation of the personnel.

The German colleagues are ready to give the necessary support in terms of providing stationary and mobile means of telecommunication, computers, and control and measurement instruments for ensuring efficient inspection of atomic power engineering facilities and for conducting research.

Specialists from Germany will take part in analyzing the safety of reactors at the Rivne Atomic Electric Power Plant and the Ukrytya [Shelter] facility, and in checking the reliability of the system for locating accidents at atomic electric power plants.

An offer from the consortium of German firms to detect, with the help of modern technology, possible areas of contamination with radioactive waste was also discussed.

National Affairs

Discussion of Draft Constitution Begins

LD2207180592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1732 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov]

[Text] Kiev July 22 TASS—The beginning of a nationwide discussion of a draft of Ukraine's new constitution was the focal point of a news conference held in Kiev today. Speaking on the course of work on a new fundamental law, head of the working group on the preparation of the document, Leonid Yuzkov, who was recently elected chairman of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, noted that the group studied the existing constitutional practice in many countries of the world, including that of Ukraine. Specifically, the Ukrainian constitutions adopted in 1710 and 1918, were also studied thoroughly. Yuzkov stressed that the group received significant constitutional assistance from American, French, German, Canadian and Hungarian experts.

Touching upon differences between the new Ukrainian constitution and similar documents in other countries, Yuzkov noted that, for the first time, the draft constitution under discussion reflects ecological rights of citizens and an issue on the right of citizens to unite on a religious basis was resolved in a more democratic way.

Yuzkov told journalists how citizens' proposals concerning a draft of a new constitution will be considered in practice. All additions and alterations to the document will be discussed in the standing commissions of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and then handed over to a special working group.

New Currency Said To Depend on Harvest Results

AU2307093492 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian
16 July 92 p 8

[Commentary by Andriy Boyechko, HOLOS UKRAYINY special correspondent for economic matters: "Zeros Have Been Added to the Coupon; It Would Be Better To Have Feet Added to It, So That It Will Not Lag Behind the Ruble"]

[Text] Over the past week, the rate of the dollar on Kiev's black market continued to rise and, as of today, has reached 230 coupons and 160 rubles on purchasing, and 235 coupons and 165 rubles when being sold. The world's other freely convertible currencies are maintained at the same level (of course, taking into account their rates regarding the U.S. dollar).

As we predicted, the process of decline in the rates of the ruble and coupon cannot be halted by statements alone: No matter how much the leaders of Russia and Ukraine talk about creating stabilization funds for their currencies, as long as there is no "viable" money, the national currencies will lag behind the dollar.

If we take into account the fact that, over the current month, the price of the dollar in coupons has increased by 80-90 units (the ruble has fallen by 30-35 units), the predictions regarding a further decline of our "wooden" currencies do not give rise to doubts. Speaking about the rates of this decline, given our uncontrolled economic decline, it is impossible to estimate them even to tenths.

Specialists of the capital's black market maintain that by the end of the summer, the price of the dollar will cross the borderline of 350 coupons and 200 rubles. The minimum will double when the fuel prices are liberalized.

In the "competition" between the coupon and the ruble, the present ratio will be maintained for a while: 65-70 kopecks per coupon. This "lull" (an insignificant fall of the coupon by one or two units per week may occur) is associated, first and foremost, with expectations of the results of harvesting that will not only largely decide the outcome of the struggle between the ruble and the coupon, but will also determine the fate of our national currency—the hryvnya. If there is a good harvest, there will certainly be a hryvnya; if not, we will have to postpone our monetary reform.

Thus, we do not have to wait too long to see the finale. The harvest will dot all the "i's" or, more specifically, will prompt what we will have to attach to the coupon—feet or wings.

Price-Cutting Resolution Criticized

LD2207191992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program
Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers of Crimea yesterday issued a statement in which it condemned the actions of

the so-called Committee for the Protection of the Interests of the Peasantry. The head of this committee, (Polyakov), sent a telegram to farms of the Crimea with a call not to implement the resolution of the government of the autonomous republic on maximum purchase prices on agricultural production. The committee called the recommendation of the Council of Ministers to reduce purchase prices on milk from 5,070 to 4,060 rubles per tonne robbery of the peasantry.

When concluding contracts on the sale of grain to the state the so-called committee also recommended establishing increased prices of 10,000 rubles per tonne for barley and from 15-21,000 rubles per tonne for wheat, depending on the quality of grain.

The Council of Ministers in its statement assess this step as a call to sabotage and undermine the objectives on the procurement of agricultural production. The statement stresses that a considerable increase in purchase prices will unavoidably also lead to an increase in retail prices for bread. Yesterday, the Council of Ministers appealed to the procurator of the Republic of Crimea with a proposal to give a legal assesment of the actions of the so-called Committee for the Protection of the Interests of the Peasantry.

Congress of Democratic Forces Commentary Noted

LD2207223992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpts] [Announcer] As you perhaps already know, a Congress of the National Democratic Forces of Ukraine should be taking place on 2 August. In this connection there was a conference yesterday of the organizers. Our

guest in the studio is Petro Borsuk, head of organizational provision for The Congress and secretary of the Ukrainian Republican Party.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Is the aim of your Congress to get a change of government?

[Borsuk] Not only will we be demanding the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet, which has now demonstrated that it has fully exhausted its potential—and obviously one cannot expect any kind of positive moves in the creation of a Ukrainian independent democratic state from this Supreme Soviet. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

[Announcer] You don't differ very much from official policy—for example, full state independence of Ukraine and Ukraine leaving the CIS. Well, who is against that?

[Borsuk] I don't agree with you. There are very many people who would even like to bring back the old days.

[Announcer] On the subject of the economic crisis and getting out of it, you have the following point in your program—the creation of a market economy and a society of owners by means of destatification and fair privatization. Do you have some kind of specific program to implement this, rather than just talking about it?

[Borsuk] Well, we do have a specific program—we are now setting up a Congress and the Congress will have somewhere in the region of more than 10-15, and possibly 20 parties and organizations. Joint documents will be adopted at the Congress. What do we have in mind by fair privatization? Equal starts and opportunities for everybody, irrespective of whether it is a private farmer or a collective farm worker; whether it is a labourer or white-collar worker, and so on, there should be the opportunity for everybody. [passage omitted]

Byelarus

No Peacekeeping Troops To Be Sent to Moldova

LD2207162392 Hamburg DPA in German
1345 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Minsk (DPA)—Byelarus is not prepared to send peacekeeping troops to settle the nationalities conflict in the Moldovan Dniester region. In a conversation with DPA today the Byelarus foreign minister, Petr Kravchanko, contradicted Russian press reports. "There will not be any 'Blue Helmet' or medical units," Kravchanko stated. Moldovan politicians have brought up the possible deployment of Byelarus troops to secure a peace corridor on the Dniester.

Kravchanko said that Byelarus can only offer the conflicting parties diplomatic backing. He said that the Byelarus capital, Minsk, is open to both sides as a location for negotiations. The foreign minister justified the refusal to deploy Byelarus peacekeeping troops by citing the status of neutrality to which his country is committed.

Red Banner Military District Disbanded

OW2307100992 Moscow Central Television First
Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT
15 Jul 92

[From from the "Utro" program's "Tele Inform
'Radara"—TIR" feature by G. Sedov]

[Text] The Red Banner Byelarusian Military District no longer exists. As reported to us Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy, Byelarusian Minister of Defense, 62 military units of the former Soviet Army will be disbanded this year. It is proposed to retire up to 22,000 officers into the reserve. The enormous job of creating the republic's armed forces lies ahead.

Defense Minister Outlines Military Policy

LD2207201292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1925 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Valentina Men-
shikova]

[Text] Minsk July 22 TASS—"The policy of the Republic of Byelarus in the military field is unequivocal—we are not searching for an enemy in any concrete country," Byelarusian Defense Minister, Colonel-General Pavel Kozlovskiy, said at a meeting with journalists. "After declaring its neutrality and nuclear-free status, the republic intends to have only an Army sufficient for its security. It again was confirmed by a package of documents on military and political problems signed at a meeting of governmental delegations of Russia and Byelarus on July 20 in Moscow," the general stressed.

The defense minister highly estimated the treaty between the two states signed in Moscow, calling it "an effective

mechanism of the interaction between our states in various spheres of life, including close cooperation in the military field."

At a news conference General Kozlovskiy informed that a delegation of military observers from the Netherlands is expected to arrive in Minsk on July 23. The aim of their visit is to assess the degree of the readiness of Byelarus to liquidate a certain number of tanks in accordance with the agreements reached in Lisbon.

UK Envoy Presents Credentials to Shushkevich

LD2207204992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2035 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Tatyana Khryapina
for TASS]

[Text] Minsk July 22 TASS—British Ambassador to Byelarus Brian Fall presented his credentials to Byelarusian Parliamentary Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich on Wednesday [22 July]. Fall is also the British ambassador to Moscow.

Great Britain became the 15th country which accredited its ambassador to Minsk.

During the ceremony, the British ambassador said that a real opportunity appeared for the successful development of relations with independent Byelarus at various levels.

Fall pointed out that First Deputy British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hogg is expected to visit Minsk at the end of July.

Hogg will hold talks on the establishment and development of bilateral ties in political, trade, economic and other spheres, and will discuss questions pertaining to the possible assistance of Great Britain in the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in Byelarus.

The ambassador said he hoped that a mutual exchange of parliamentary delegations will take place in 1992.

Shushkevich assessed the event as an important step towards reaching a new and better level of bilateral relations.

He expressed hope for favourable mutual contacts meeting the interests of both states.

Minsk Deputies Explore Ways To Save Economy

LD2207212792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1630 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Tatyana Khry-
apina]

[Text] Minsk, 22 Jul—The Byelarusian capital's economy is near a line beyond which there is not simply an economic crisis but a catastrophe. Such a conclusion

was made by the deputies of the Minsk city soviet who are authors of a draft concept of developing enterprise activity in the town.

In their view, the main task of the city soviet of people's deputies consists of ensuring favorable conditions for enhancing and expanding all forms of entrepreneurship. For the time being, the town has set up a fund for financing small enterprises in the sphere of science and technology, the production of consumer goods, construction, the growing and processing of agricultural products, and programs for foreign economic cooperation. In the near future, the authors of the concept believe, the share of state property should be reduced at least by a third.

The draft document passed its first reading at a meeting of the executive committee. It will be discussed by deputies of the city soviet at the next session.

Moldova

Snegur: Dniester To Get 'Special Status'

LD2207150292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1417 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau July 22 TASS—The breakaway Dniester Region will get a special status within Moldova, according to President Mircea Snegur. The population there will retain the right for self-determination in case Moldova changes its state status, he told the republican parliament on Wednesday [22 July], clearly referring to a possible unification with Romania. The status is to be worked out by political means, including parliamentary methods, the president added.

Snegur welcomed the agreement on a peaceful settlement in the Dniester Region signed with the Russian president in Moscow yesterday. He expressed hope the document will facilitate an early restoration of peace there.

Experts have already begun on Wednesday to create a controlling commission which will provide for a complete ceasefire. The city of Bendery becomes a zone of high security which will be provided for by joint peacekeeping forces. Order in the city will be observed by the commission supported by Moldovan policemen and Dniester militia, according to the president.

Snegur said the agreement confirms a number of fundamental principles which include the observance by all sides of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Moldova, as well as human and minorities rights.

The agreement also envisages elimination of obstacles in cargo transportation and unblocking railways, Snegur said, adding he will decide on lifting the state of emergency in Moldova depending on the implementation of envisaged steps.

Snegur Views Dniester Peace Agreement

LD2207200192 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network
in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] After the signing of the agreement on the principles of a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Dniester region of the Republic of Moldova, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur replied to questions from journalists of national radio and television and the MOLD-OVAPRES agency who accompanied him during that brief visit.

Replying to a question on how he assesses the act of signing the agreement, the president noted that he was very satisfied since its implementation will lead to a cease-fire and the setting up of the joint commission which will create conditions for peacekeeping forces. President Snegur expressed confidence that after the signing of the convention shooting will stop in Bendery, too, and under conditions of peace it will be possible to implement the mechanism envisaged by the document for a final settlement of the conflict, and the review of the remaining problems by political methods, including parliamentary means.

With regard to the Tiraspol representatives and, in particular, Igor Smirnov who went to Moscow to be present at the signing of the agreement, Mircea Snegur stated that, in essence, this has not bothered him since, in the final analysis, they are one of the sides involved in the conflict or, to be more precise, the ones who initiated it, and peace in the region should be restored by joint efforts. Moreover, the president said more specifically, Ion Mitskoy, chairman of the Dubossary executive committee, was also in Moscow. The fact that Tiraspol representatives were present at the signing should mean that the level of responsibility for the implementation of the provisions of the agreement will be even higher.

Replying to a question about the possible participation of the Russian Federation in the next stage of the conflict's settlement and its being resolved by peaceful means, the president stated firmly that the search for a political resolution of the Dniester problem was a purely internal problem.

On the subject of guarantees for the withdrawal of the limited contingents of troops ensuring peace in the region if the agreement is not observed and if the conflict becomes exacerbated, the president expressed the hope that the conflict will not flare up to such an extent that it will be impossible to resolve it by means of the agreement that has been signed. The joint monitoring commission that will soon be set up, Mircea Snegur said, will receive sufficient powers to carry out its activities. Together with military observers within the framework of the four and jointly with the disengagement contingents, it will be able to finally settle the conflict.

The situation is calm in Cocieri, Cosnita, and (?Kopanka) with shooting continuing only in Bendery. But the headquarters of the joint commission is to be

located in Bendery, so we hope that we shall be able to achieve a cease-fire in all zones.

As far as concerns the question of the extent to which the Russian Federation can be a guarantor of the observance of the agreement, Mircea Snegur stressed that the document envisages Russian assistance in resolving the conflict, the return of refugees, the restoration of enterprises, and the construction of housing. By signing the Moscow agreement, Mircea Snegur stressed, the Russian Federation has undertaken a great responsibility.

Hunger Strike Over Dniester Pact Called

OW2207140992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1247 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A hunger strike has been called by a group of Moldova's army servicemen and volunteers in protest against "the political show staged in Chisinau and Moscow to restore the old communist structures".

In an interview with the local mass media the hunger-strikers have said that the agreement signed in Moscow for settling the conflict in Dniester "contradicts the interests of Moldova's national revival" making it again dependent on Russia.

The protesters demand a resignation of the Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangeli and a return of Ion Costas as Defence Minister. They insist on resolute political and military action "liberating Moldova from Russia's aggression". They want Moldova to leave the CIS and hold a multi-party parliamentary election.

Smirnov Says No Compromise on Independence

AU2207143992 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak
21 Jul 92 pp 1, 10

[Interview with Moldovan Dniester Republic President Igor Smirnov by Ivan Drabek and Alexej Fulmek; place and date not given: "Uncompromisingly"]

[Text] The conflict between the so-called Moldovan Dniester Republic and the Moldovan Republic is claiming more casualties. Although the politicians express their desire for a peaceful solution to the dispute, it is apparent that views on Moldova's future arrangement are extremely divided. The military propaganda machine is operating at full speed. Moldovan Television has labelled the Moldovan Dniester Republic Government a bunch of separatists and people in the Dniester region are talking about aggression and genocide on the part of the Moldovan Republic. The deployment of CIS peace-keeping forces in buffer zones along the lower Dniester is the only hope for peace in the region. The time frame for this operation is still unknown.

[SMENA] Following the visit of Russian Federative Republic Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy to Tiraspol, some mass media published a report that you are not

insisting on independence for the Dniester region and, under certain circumstances, will accede to a federative arrangement for Moldova. You quickly denied this report. What concessions is your side prepared to make in order to restore peace to the Dniester region?

[Smirnov] This was misinformation. We insist on independence for the Moldovan Dniester Republic. We have strived for a long time to reach an agreement with the Moldovan side. We have proposed autonomy and a federative arrangement. We wanted to negotiate. Moldovan President Snegur said just before the barbaric assault on Tighina [Bendery] that it is necessary to resolve the conflict by peaceful means. After Tighina, where hundreds of civilians were killed, parliament demanded that our government alter its political course and concentrate on achieving independence. We respect this decision, and we are striving to implement it. Therefore, we cannot accept compromises that are at variance with this intention. Our main aim is to stop the bloodshed. The only realistic possibility for this is the arrival of neutral forces. An army in the buffer zones could be composed of troops from any number of countries. However, we insist that they cannot be troops from Moldova or Romania as these countries have involved themselves in the conflict by supplying arms and sending military observers.

[SMENA] There is gunfire in Tighina and Dubasary. Does this mean that the ceasefire is being continually violated?

[Smirnov] In essence, no ceasefire has been implemented. We have withdrawn our heavy military equipment the required distance, but there is constant firing from light weapons.

[SMENA] Nevertheless, in Tighina we saw armored personnel carriers and infantry combat vehicles that have not been withdrawn from their positions. They were several hundred meters from the front line.

[Smirnov] Unless a neutral army comes to the city, we cannot withdraw all our equipment. How are we to assure the people that Moldovan troops will not attack them again during the night? In general, what does this mean—withdrawing equipment to a distance of 30 kilometers? These weapons can return to the city in half an hour. We cannot allow them to destroy our buildings, kindergartens, schools, and factories. Therefore, we have not withdrawn all our heavy weapons. This is simply not possible after the events in Tighina.

[SMENA] No state has yet recognized the Moldovan Dniester Republic. Are you undertaking any diplomatic activity in this regard? Have you any indications that, under certain circumstances, some states would recognize you?

[Smirnov] We do not attach such importance to this. No one has recognized us, but we have been developing successfully for two years. We recently established an office for foreign relations. We want to develop political

and economic contacts with all the countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as with other partners. Many European countries that have undergone the same process as we have certainly understand this. We know that the element of caution plays a certain role here. We also want to cooperate with Western countries. However, we are not demanding aid so that we have something to eat. We want to establish economic cooperation that would help us achieve equal partnership. As far as the legal recognition of our state is concerned, we think it will definitely come in time.

[SMENA] The cost of food and other products in the Dniester region is much lower than in Ukraine or Moldova. This is possibly the reason why citizens support your government. How long will you maintain these low prices?

[Smirnov] We do not fix prices, but we give subsidies to certain products. Other prices are regulated by the market mechanism. However, we will not allow our population to die of hunger. How long will we carry on? This will depend on harvests and on factors resulting from the formation of prices. However, we will not talk about any time frames. You have noted correctly that prices are lower than in Ukraine or Moldova. Therefore, in the future we will have to protect ourselves by erecting customs barriers. I am against borders, but they will be necessary in this case.

Dniester Official Views Region's Situation

AU2107133492 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak
18 Jul 92 pp 1,10

[Interview with Alexandru Caraman, vice president of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, by Ivan Drabek and Alexej Fulmek; place and date not given: "An Immense Gulf"]

[Text] For more than a week the Moldovan Dniester Republic has been vacillating between war and peace. After all the diplomatic activity, people are again beginning to talk about preparations for new offensives. A final solution to the conflict between the predominantly Russian-speaking left bank and the Romanian-speaking right bank of the River Dniester is not expected in the foreseeable future. Alexandru Caraman, vice president of the Moldovan Dniester Republic, is a Moldovan. He is a doctor by profession, but since December last year he has been the second most senior official in the Dniester Moldovan Republic.

[SMENA] What are the Moldovan Dniester Republic's minimum demands for a ceasefire?

[Caraman] We insist on the unconditional cessation of military activity. We are not dealing in minimums at this level. Later on—during political negotiations conducted on an equal basis—we will submit our minimum demands, demands acceptable to the Dniester Republic. However, I want to emphasize that the demands submitted by the Dniester region during the past two and a

half years have always been rejected by the Moldovan side. So, the original maximum has turned into a minimum in individual stages. As early as 1989 we demanded a free economic zone without any political concessions. This was rejected in Chisinau, and we were labelled separatists for the first time. A year later we conducted a referendum—the first one in the former USSR—in the Dniester region. An absolute majority of voters expressed themselves in favor of establishing an autonomous Dniester Republic within the framework of Moldova. Chisinau's response was intensified repression. Six of our deputies were arrested and the chairman of the former Supreme Council, current President Igor Smirnov, was imprisoned. When they also refused us autonomy, this maximum became the minimum during the course of six months. On 1 December 1991, a referendum was held and 97 percent of voters—the turn-out rate was 85 percent—expressed themselves in favor of independence and sovereignty for the Dniester Republic. Despite this outcome, for a long time we still put forward a federative concept for the constitutional and legal arrangement. We thought it would be too painful to sever the thousands of ties—economic, cultural, historical, and family—that bind us to Moldova. We submitted this legislative initiative to the Moldovan parliament six times, but it was not debated even once. Now, after the bloody events in Tighina [Bendery], Dniester Republic citizens no longer believe that the former cleft that grew into a gulf between our republics can be bridged. At the last session of the Dniester Republic Supreme Council in June, parliament decided to establish an independent sovereign state.

[SMENA] No one has yet recognized your republic. Do you think that, under such circumstances, you can take part in talks as an equal partner?

[Caraman] We are only willing to take part in a dialogue between equal sides. Otherwise, these would not be talks, but a diktat forced on the weaker side by the stronger one. Although we are not de jure recognized, we have been de facto independent for more than two years. Our republic has all the inevitable attributes of a state—legislative and executive authority; independent courts; and its own financial, budget, and banking system. It is possible to live without international recognition. There are parallels for this in the world. The world will eventually recognize that 752,000 people have the right to choose their own fate and to decide on their children's future.

[SMENA] One of the guardsmen in the trenches said that there will be no peace in this region until all the Romanians—as the Moldovans are called here—leave or are killed.

[Caraman] I cannot agree with this, because all activities leading to people's deaths are an anathema to me. Unfortunately, today we are witnesses to the fact that people of all nationalities are dying in the Dniester region. Death by violence is one of the most serious crimes against humanity. It makes no difference to

parents whether their children die for Snegur or for Smirnov. On the other hand, it is necessary to emphasize that there will be no peace here until all the armed Moldovan units withdraw from this region.

[SMENA] A few days ago we found out that groups of volunteers are being formed in Russia to fight in the Dniester region. Have you any more information on this?

[Caraman] We know that movements supporting Dniester are being formed in many parts of Russia. We have received information pointing to the formation of Russian paramilitary units. They are of a nationalist-patriotic character. However, I do not think they would be deliberately formed on account of the situation in the Dniester region. There are no such units on our territory. Individuals come from Russia and join groupings as volunteers, but they have no fundamental part in this conflict.

[SMENA] So, you do not admit to the possibility of these volunteers' participation in the Moldova-Dniester conflict. Are we to understand that you would not allow them into your territory?

[Caraman] We do not discount this possibility, and we do not reject such offers, but it seems to us this is premature. We hope there will be peace in this region and it will not be necessary to accept these volunteers. We have information that the Army and military technology are continuing to be concentrated along the Dniester. The Moldovan side has much more weaponry and troops than we do. They have absolute dominance in the air, because neither we nor the 14th Army has an air force. Therefore, if they carry out an attack against the Dniester region, we will be forced to accept help from anyone who offers it. The possibility of an attack is extremely high. The first forecast spoke about 15 or 16 July. This caused widespread panic among the population. Now the indications are that an attack could take place this weekend.

[SMENA] We have the impression from what you have said and done that you are preparing for war in the Dniester region. Factories are being converted to military production, an army is being formed, and mobilization has been declared. Do you not believe in a peaceful solution to the conflict?

[Caraman] We have never prepared for war, we have never been prepared for a Moldovan attack, and we are not prepared for it even now. I want to remind you that on 2 November 1990, when the first civilians in the Dniester region were killed in the town of Dubasari, people confronted armed men with their bare hands. So, you have to understand, if you want to resist force, you also have to be strong. Therefore, in the course of a year we had to form a republican guard to protect the civilian population.

14th Army Confiscates Weapons in Dniester

LD2207201592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Jul 92

["Novosti" newscast report by correspondent V. Luskanov]

[Text] Russia's 14th Army, which until now has not had a chance to show its value, seems to have found a worthy job. Apart from other things, the agreement on peaceful settlement to the conflict in the Dniester region has set the task of demilitarizing the region. It seems that General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, started a large-scale operation for confiscating weapons. Tiraspol's military commandant, whom Lebed appointed, and 100 paratroopers are trying to stop a wave of crime and looting, which invariably accompany war, by tough measures. Sub-machine guns, machine guns, grenade throwers, shape-charge anti-tank projectiles, or pistols—all these items have been confiscated over the last three days alone. A grenade can be bought for 500 rubles. The flow of weapons from the Dniester region has burst forth to Russia's central areas, including Moscow and Petersburg where, it appears, stable markets have sprung up. The situation is paradoxical since the major part of the weapons which are being confiscated today was, at one time, stolen from Army storages.

[Begin M. Bergman, Tiraspol's military commandant, recording] Our main task is to ensure that on 1 September our children go to school without grenades. [end recording]

Snegur Talks With Council of Europe Group

LD2107190292 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network
in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur today received a delegation of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, headed by David Atkinson, chairman of the Commission on Relations with Non-member Countries, which is visiting our republic. During a concentrated dialogue, the president talked about the situation that has developed in the economy and socio-political life of the republic. He observed that the armed conflict that has been forced on us by certain ambitious people has moved issues of implementation of economic reforms into the background. President Snegur expressed the hope that it will prove possible to achieve a settlement of the conflict in the near future. This should be promoted by the agreement on ending the confrontation in the Dniester region and on resolution of all issues by parliamentary means, which is to be signed between Moldova and Russia.

Replying to questions from the visitors, the president noted that the initiative for drafting and signing this document resulted from the meeting held between the presidents of Russia and Moldova. In connection with

this, the head of state emphasized that numerous initiatives for a peaceful settlement of the conflict have been put forward by Moldova, but were rejected by the Tiraspol leaders. However, the world community is not well informed about this, since a number of Russia's media channels, and first and foremost the Ostankino Radio-TV Company, serve up distorted reports and misinform the public about events taking place in Moldova.

Speaking about protecting the rights of national minorities, President Mircea Snegur said that the republic's leadership is taking every step in order to prevent encroachments against anybody's interests. He emphasized that 75 percent of the Russians live on the right bank of the Dniester, and only 25 percent on the left bank. However, the conflict in Moldova's eastern areas has not arisen because of encroachments against the rights of Russians, as they try to make out, but because of the political ambitions of certain Tiraspol leaders. The president emphasized that their ideas for federalization of the republic are unacceptable.

Concerning the representation of ethnic minorities in the bodies of state power, the president talked about steps being adopted in this direction. He noted that the new government that is being formed is to include representatives of the nationalities that live in Moldova. He emphasized, however, that the formation of a new government is not linked to the settlement of the conflict in the republic's eastern areas.

Replying to a question from Mrs. (Ingrid Buyavo), who reports on Moldova to the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly, President Snegur said that once peace is restored, it is planned to hold parliamentary elections on a multiparty basis in the republic. He said that about 15 political parties and movements have already been registered in Moldova, and that this process continues. He also said that a draft new constitution for the independent Moldova has been drafted. The parliament will examine it in the near future and decide on procedures for adopting this new basic law.

A broad discussion on topical issues of internal political life and international life took place during the meeting.

(Vasile Modarchuk), chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on International Ties, participated in the meeting.

During the afternoon, the delegation of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe had a meeting with representatives of the Society for Russian Culture in Moldova, as well as with representatives of Gagauzia.

Our correspondent was told about the purpose of the visit by David Atkinson, head of the delegation. Here is the recording.

[Begin Atkinson recording, in English with passage by passage Russian translation] The reason why we are here is to produce a report in response to the application from Moldova to join the Council of Europe. One of the principle considerations is the protection of minorities and that is why we specifically demanded that we should have this opportunity to meet the Russian minority and the Gagauz minority. Of course, we shall take full account of what we have heard from both the groups in preparing our recommendation.

One of the qualifications for membership of the Council of Europe is to be a multiparty democracy. And in a democracy, while the will of the majority prevails, the wishes of the minority must be protected. And so, when we analyze Moldova's new constitution and laws when it applies for full membership of the Council of Europe, we will scrutinize very carefully the protection for the rights of the Russian people and the Gagauz people in Moldova. That is why we found these two sessions particularly valuable, in learning from them as to where they feel they are being discriminated against at the present time. But might I just add that we emphasized, when we met the Russian representative group, the need to find a peaceful solution to the problem which unfortunately has led to what appears to the rest of the world to be a civil war. And as we are seeing, tragically, in Bosnia, war is in no one's interest. That is why it is so important that not only the Moldovan people but also the Russian people who live in Moldova put the interest of the Moldovan—the new, free, and independent Moldovan—state first. [end recording]

Kazakhstan

Deputy Prime Minister Relieved of Duties

OW2207133492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1247 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has issued a decree relieving of his duties the deputy-Premier and chairman of the national agency on foreign investments Kalyk Abdullayev due to his transfer to another job.

From sources close to the President INTERFAX has received information that N. Nazarbayev signed the decree on Monday, July 20, while being on holiday. The same sources say Abdullayev will be appointed to a diplomatic post, but they do not specify which.

Leadership Begins Second Stage of Privatization

OW2207003592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2007 GMT 21 Jul 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In conformity with the strategy, as worked out by President Nursultan Nazarbayev and his advisers, for an accelerated economic growth, a second stage in privatization began in the course of which major industrial facilities are to be privatized.

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX], First Deputy Chairman of the State Property Committee Mikhail Kinkin said that hundreds of small and medium-sized enterprises had been privatized during stage one, mostly small retail trade outlets.

Today, said the committee deputy chairman, a program has been worked out to privatize factories. Facilities such as the Alma-Ata textile factory, and Ust-Kamenogorsk lead and zinc works and other industrial monsters have already been denationalized; they have a combined book value of several billion rubles.

Tinkin spoke about the share issue of the giant ferrous metals works, the Dzhezkazganisvetmet factory. Its price is estimated to be 1.7 bn. [billion] rubles. The association will become an open-end joint-stock company that will have a payroll of 30,000, pensioners, suppliers and foreign investors. The State Property Committee will have a controlling interest (31 percent) and 19 percent will be reserve stock; the rest will be sold or transferred gratis.

According to Director of the Information and Expert Opinion Department of the Kazakh State Property Committee Bulat Tasybayev, 2426 facilities had been privatized by June 1 of this year, including 1850 utility sector facilities and 272 municipal ones. Their price was set at 8.218 bn. rubles.

Tasybayev also said that 1498 enterprises became collective property, 72 facilities were leased out, 541 enterprises came into private hands, and 107 joint-stock companies.

Government To Buy Up Excess Grain

LD2007125592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1143 GMT 20 Jul 92

[All figures as received]

[Text] Kazakhstan's Government has plans to purchase for hard currency 2.5 to 3 million tons of grain produced by farmers in excess of plan when speaking on the republic's national television on July 18, Sergey Tereshchenko, Kazakhstan's prime minister, said that the state order to the republic's farmers had been for 10 million tons of grain. He also said that grain procurement prices, fixed by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of July 17, 1992, will be as follows.

Hard wheat—85 dollars per ton

Soft wheat—80 dollars per ton

Wheat of the 3d and 4th grade of quality—70 dollars per ton

Corn—90 dollars per ton

Barley—85 dollars per ton

Rice—100 dollars per ton.

Tereshchenko also said that these prices were lower than the world's grain prices only because hard currency profits of the farms selling grain to the state for hard currency will not be taxed. The Cabinet of Ministers has also suggested that farms use this money to buy agricultural machinery and food processing equipment. According to Tereshchenko, Kazakhstan will begin to export grain to other Commonwealth republics in April and May, 1992, when grain prices will be the highest.

Tereshchenko believes that, in the years to come, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will buy 20 to 25 million tons of grain in Kazakhstan annually. That is why our aim is to produce 8 to 10 million tons annually and to export it to these countries,—he said. Kazakhstan plans to export grain at world prices and estimates this year's export revenues at about 200 billion dollars.

When speaking about bread prices after the fuel price liberalization, Tereshchenko said: Bread will be cheaper in Kazakhstan than in Russia (that means it will cost less than 20 to 25 rubles per kilo). We now do everything to prevent bread prices from rising too high.

INTERFAX Lists Joint Ventures Figures

OW1707031992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1608 GMT 16 Jul 92

["Statistical Data" from the 17 July "Trade & Investment" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text]

Foreign Partners of Kazakhstan's Joint Ventures (data as of April 1 1992)

Country of origin	Number of joint ventures	Investments in authorized capital	Share of total investments (\$000) in joint ventures % of total
USA	29	17,154	12.2
Germany	26	19,996	14.2
Turkey	23	16,440	11.6
China	18	8,821	6.3
South Korea	13	13,534	9.6
Italy	9	8,180	5.8
Great Britain	8	6,234	4.4
Canada	7	4,892	3.5
Poland	7	1,331	0.9
Austria	6	2,375	1.7
Switzerland	6	847	0.6
Czechoslovakia	6	4,003	2.8
Sweden	6	3,863	2.7
Yugoslavia	5	2,607	1.8
Hungary	4	6,409	4.5
Netherlands	4	223	0.2
Bulgaria	4	1,794	1.3
France	4	7,311	5.0
Finland	3	2,220	1.6
Afghanistan	3	2,250	1.6
Taiwan	3	1,620	1.2
India	3	374	0.3
Denmark	2	873	0.6
Iran	2	427	0.3
Australia	2	311	0.2
North Korea	2	4,098	2.9
Others	21	3,020	2.2
TOTAL	225	141,207	100.0

Exports, Imports and Domestic Sales of Kazakh Joint Ventures by Region in 1992

Regions	No. of joint ventures	Exports (\$000)	Imports (\$000)	Domestic sales	
				\$000	Rv000
Aktyubinsk R.	1	427.6	—	363.9	—
Atyrau R.	1	—	—	—	—
Eastern-Kazakhstan R.	—	—	—	—	—
Jambul R.	1	374.3	713.1	—	—

Regions	No. of joint ventures	Exports (\$000)	Imports (\$000)	Domestic sales	
Jezkazgan R.	—	—	—	—	—
Karaganda R.	2	1,283.2	—	—	65,707
Kzyl-Orda R.	—	—	—	—	—
Kokchetav R.	1	—	70.0	—	3,902.1
Kustanay R.	1	—	—	—	—
Mangistau R.	1	—	—	2,975.0	—
Pavlodar R.	3	—	—	2,273.0	—
Northern-Kazakhstan R.	1	—	—	—	72.0
Semipalatinsk R.	1	—	—	—	571.0
Taldy-Kurgan R.	—	—	16,372.5	—	5,745.0
Turgay R.	—	—	—	—	—
Urals R.	—	—	—	—	—
Tselinograd R.	1	5.4	—	—	23,510.0
Chimkent R.	3	350.3	23,332.9	—	39,692.0
Alma-Ata	15	164.8	1,112.9	30.6	147,244.2
Total for Kazakhstan	32	2,605.6	41,601.4	394.5	291,739.6

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Calls For Adoption of New Constitution

OW2207213992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1703 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev speaking at a meeting with representatives of parties and movements in Bishkek on Tuesday night [21 July] warned against attempts to rush through the republic's new constitution. However, he stressed that the new basic legislation must be given a final approval this autumn.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: In its previous editions, PB [Presidential Bulletin] outlined the view by the president's legal aide, Leonid Levitin, suggesting that the adoption of the new constitution must be delayed by two years at least.

Akayev promised the audience that all of the sensible ideas put forward by democrats would be raised at parliamentary hearings due to start on Friday, with the constitution being the only point on the agenda of the ninth session.

IF Note: Apart from the main blueprint hammered out by the parliamentary commission and approved by the house, there are two other alternative drafts. Both of them were drawn up by support groups of the Erkin Kyrgyzstan party and call on a parliamentary rather than a presidential republic as envisaged by the main draft. The Democratic Party believes this will help to prevent presidential authority from degenerating into authoritarian rule.

Army To Compose of 8,000 Conscripts

OW2307100892 Moscow Central Television
First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian
1845 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By G. Sedov; from the "Utro" program's "Tele Inform 'Radara'—TIR" feature]

[Text] The military defense doctrine of Kyrgyzstan will be formulated by 25 July. The self-defense forces that are being established will absorb the best experience of their Commonwealth neighbors and of the more distant foreign countries, particularly Turkey. The Kyrgyz army, which will be made up of professionals and conscripts, will number 8,000 men. Presently there are 4,000 men under arms in the republic.

Tajikistan

Further on Use of CIS Peacekeeping Forces

OW2207213592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1703 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President's defence adviser and chairman of the republic's Defence Committee Major-General Bakhrom Rakhmonov has told an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent that setting up a CIS "blue berets" contingent for separating warring sides in the "hot spots" of the former USSR "seems today to be the best way to provide peace and calm in such regions". He did not rule out employing the "blue berets" in Tajikistan.

IF Note: Experts of the republic's Defence Committee think it might be possible to use such "blue berets" in the Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyubin regions which were recently the scene of bloody clashes between ethnic and political groups. Though the situation has normalized, its reasons have not been cured, and the conflict may flare up again.

Commenting on the results of this month's meeting in Tashkent of the CIS foreign and defence ministers General Rakhmonov particularly notes the draft-protocol initialled by the meeting on the provisional order of forming and bringing into action groups of military observers and joint peace-making forces for conflict zones. Units for that purpose, he said, will be set up in Tajikistan.

IF Note: The Defence Committee is going to open a Tajik military college in Dushanbe. It will provide four years of training in many specialities in the Tajik and Russian languages. The trainees will be turned out in the lieutenant's rank. The Committee's press-service justifies the decision by the fact that military colleges in other CIS countries demand too high tuition for training officers for Tajikistan. For one infantry or tank troops officer they take rb [rubles] 118,000-120,000, and for a pilot - rb 1,200,000.

Talks With Shokhin Conclude, Overview Given

LD2207152692 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1410 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By "KHOVAR" Tel. Inf. Agency correspondent Victor Kozlov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe July 22 TASS—Tajikistan and Russia consider it necessary to begin preparations for a programme of economic cooperation on mutually beneficial conditions for the year 1993. This is stated in a joint Tajik-Russian communique signed today at the end of the visit by a Russian delegation headed by Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin to Tajikistan.

According to the document, during the two-day talks of the Russian delegation with the Tajik government delegation, headed by the First Vice-Prime Minister Jamshed Karimov, a wide range of questions concerning a treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual help between the two states was discussed. Both sides reaffirmed that the conclusion of the treaty will form a basis for all-round cooperation between the two states.

During discussions on a block of economic problems, the participants of the talks underscored the special significance of the protection and development of economic ties, taking into consideration the high degree of integration of the two states' economy. Questions related to the future rouble zone were considered in detail and joint work for the preparation in the near future of an agreement on a coordinated monetary-credit and currency policy was chalked out.

Both sides paid great attention to the statutes concerning border and military problems and also to questions of cooperation in humanitarian spheres. An accord was reached to conclude in the near future an agreement on the status of the Russian troops billeted on Tajikistan's territory, the procedure of recruitment for the Army and ensurement of material and technical supplies for it. A similar agreement was reached in respect of Russia's border security force.

Having discussed problems of the CIS, both sides supported further interaction within the Commonwealth framework. Both sides favoured holding regular bilateral meetings between members of the governments and heads of ministries.

The Russian delegation was received by the president of Tajikistan Rakhman Nabiyev. An understanding was reached during the meeting about his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the near future.

At the conclusion of the talks the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual help between the two countries, as well as an agreement on the regulation of immigration process and the protection of rights of immigrants were initiated.

Nabiyev Orders Foreign Ministry To Reorganize

OW2207135692 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1255 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Report by Igor Porshnev and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday, July 21, President Rakhman Nabiyev signed a decree to reorganize Tajikistan's Ministry of External Relations. The decree provides for establishing on its basis Foreign Ministry and State Committee for External Economic Relations.

The Cabinet of Ministers was instructed to determine the composition of the ministry and the committee, and allocate funds required for their maintenance.

Tatarstan established a department for foreign affairs and for relations with the CIS. Led by Vice-President Vasili Likhachev, the department will function in the framework of the office of President Mintimer Shaimiyev.

Experts Prepare Draft Law on Language

LD2207132992 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1250 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By TIA "KHOVAR" TASS correspondent Viktor Kozlov]

[Text] Dushanbe July 22 TASS—"The state language in Tajikistan is Farsi (Tajik) and its knowledge is obligatory for citizens," a draft law on the language says in article one, which was prepared by a group of experts from the fund of the Persian-Tajik language.

The draft law envisages that employees of state institutions must have "a good command of the state language" and the skill of office workers rendering services to the population, "should be on the level necessary for carrying out their official duties." In the capital of the republic office work in state institutions must be conducted in the Tajik language, irrespective of employees' national origin.

In localities where the majority of the population does not belong to the Tajik nationality, it is permissible to do office work in their native language. At the same time, the draft says informal use of other languages in everyday life and personal contacts is beyond the limits of the law action.

Turkmenistan

Romanian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

AU2307091692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
0706 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 22/7/1992—In Turkmenistan, the last leg of his tour of central Asia, on Tuesday, July 21 the Romanian minister of foreign affairs, Adrian Nastase, and his counterpart, Avdy Kuliyeu, signed a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Romania and Turkmenistan and a protocol on cooperation and consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries. The signing ceremony was preceded by talks between the two foreign ministers. The same day, the group of businessmen accompanying the Romanian delegation had an interview with the ministerial team led by the vice premier of Turkmenistan. At the news conference organized after the signing of the protocol establishing diplomatic relations between Romania and Turkmenistan, the Romanian minister of foreign affairs, Adrian Nastase, emphasized: "Our visit lays the bases of a juridical and institutional framework." I am convinced, he stressed, that conditions are in place for the development of excellent ties between our countries. In connection with the prospects of the bilateral economic collaboration and in the Black Sea area, the Turkmenian foreign minister, A. Kuliyeu, although he made no prognostication of the way in which those relations would develop, said that "Romania is one of the most important states in that region, which represents a great advantage for us." Referring to Romania's intentions to attend the activities of the regional cooperation organism which includes Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and some former Soviet republics in central Asia, Adrian Nastase stated that, generally, economic organizations have not an ideological or religious character. The problem of the participation in an organisation should be strictly linked to the economic interests and, from this point of view, Romania would like to become a member of that organisation, to participate in certain projects of interest for it.

Answering a questions the Romanian foreign affairs minister appreciated that the present conflict in the Republic of Moldova "represents an experimental range for the political

changes in the former Soviet Union and, especially, in Moscow." There is, obviously, a political dimension of that conflict. It is not an interethnic conflict, Mr. Nastase underscored, and that conflict should be approached in keeping with the general regulations of the CSCE and of international law. Observance should be made of the territorial integrity of Moldova as an independent state, member of the United Nations, and the rights of the minorities living on that territory should be also observed.

In the same context, Mr. Adrian Nastase added: the major factor and the essential cause of the blockage in finding a solution is the presence of the 14th Army on the Republic of Moldova's territory and, especially, in the districts on the left bank of the Dniester. Those troops' presence gives the feeling of a political, financial, military and moral support on behalf of the Russian Federation or of other political forces in the Russian Federation in favour of the separatists and this situation renders the negotiations more difficult.

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Avdy Kuliyeu emphasized during the same news conference—referring to that republic's participation in the Commonwealth of Independent States—that Turkmenistan wished to develop relations with all states but that "the remnants of the old ideology impose new approaches, a new behaviour based on mutual respect in bilateral relations, on full equality and mutual advantage.

The Turkmenian foreign minister denied the existence of interethnic conflicts in the republic.

Niyazov, Nastase Talks Noted

LD2207171192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1630 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Ashkhabat July 22 TURKMEN PRESS for TASS—President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurad Niyazov, received today Romanian Foreign Minister, Adrian Nastase, who is currently on an official visit here. The negotiations focused on issues of multilateral cooperation between the two countries. Nastase stressed that Romania wishes to strengthen its political and economic relations with Turkmenistan. Specifically, he informed the Turkmen president of the Romanian Government's intention to participate in the construction of a gas and chemical complex in the city of Seidi, a railway line connecting Tedzhen and Sarakhs, dwelling-houses and objects of a social nature along this branch-line, as well as the construction of plants producing soda ash and cement. Both sides expressed their readiness to create joint ventures on furniture production in Turkmenistan. In the course of the talks the Romanian side showed interest in discussing issues dealing with the export of oil, gas and cotton.

The foreign minister handed over to Saparmurad Niyazov an invitation by Romanian President, Ion Iliescu, to make an official visit to Romania.

As a result of the talks, the two sides concluded a treaty on trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

Armenia

Nagorno-Karabakh Situation, Fighting Noted

NC2207190292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan
in Azeri 1330 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Armenia's border rayons:

The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is gradually worsening. The success achieved by the Armenian side during the past few days has (?angered) the aggressors. Naturally, the enemy forces have used every opportunity not to lose the initiative, but they have not been successful. The Armenian self-defense forces have inflicted serious losses on the enemy units both in terms of men and military hardware and have forced them to withdraw from several residential areas they occupied in Mardakertskiy Rayon. The Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] Armenians control many of the towns in the rayon. [Two placenames indistinct] and Zerdakhar were liberated during the past two days. Clashes currently are continuing for other strategically important towns and hills. As reported earlier, the Armenian defense forces control Sarsangsk Reservoir.

Azerbaijani Army units have unceasingly fired on the other rayons in Nagorno-Karabakh with various types of arms. The aggressors have been observed to mass units and military hardware around Gadrutskiy and Martuninskiy Rayons. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces have launched a wide-scale offensive on this part of the battle front as well. The information we have received, however, indicates that the effort made by the enemy has not yielded results. The Armenian fighters are warding off the attacks and destroying the enemy firing positions. Nevertheless, the Azerbaijani mass media organs continue to distort the facts and provide incorrect information on the casualties and loss of military hardware.

The Azerbaijani Army wishes to redeem its losses on the battlefields by attacking peaceful people. The bombardment of Stepanakert from the air on 20 July confirms this viewpoint. [passage indistinct]

The Azerbaijani leaders wish to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem through committing an act of genocide against the NKR people. But Azerbaijan will not succeed in its effort to intimidate the Artsakh people and force them to abandon their objectives. [passage indistinct]

Azerbaijan Army units continue to fire on Armenia's border rayons every day. [Name indistinct] Rayon in Armenia was fired on from Azerbaijan with artillery guns and tanks the previous night. Six peaceful residents were killed as a result. The Armenian forces returned fire to silence the enemy positions.

The Azerbaijani units also have fired on the [name indistinct] and Krasnoselskiy Rayons with various types

of arms. We reported earlier that the officials in Armenia's Krasnoselskiy Rayon concluded an agreement with their counterparts in the neighboring rayon to halt the exchange of fire between the two sides. We also said that we were unable to predict the time the cease-fire agreement would be observed. Azerbaijan violated similar agreements in the past and used them [words indistinct]. Krasnoselskiy Rayon was fired on once again. One of the rounds hit [words indistinct] and several people were killed. Armenia's Megrinskiy Rayon also has been the target of attacks during the past few days. [Name indistinct] town was fired on with artillery guns and automatic firearms last night. The Armenian side returned fire. No one was killed or wounded in the rayon. It seems that the opening of a road between Armenia and Iran has made the neighboring republic uneasy. It is no coincidence that several shells fell close to the bridge between Armenia and Iran during past clashes.

The situation in Armenia's Gorisskiy Rayon has been relatively peaceful during the past few days, but tension has continued to prevail.

The Azerbaijani side [words indistinct] and refrains from resolving the problems through peaceful initiatives and talks. It has used various excuses to obstruct the initiatives made to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

Karabakh Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

OW2207133592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1247 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the presidium of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's Supreme Soviet has arrived in Yerevan, for talks with the Armenian leadership. The delegation is led by the republic's acting speaker Petrosyan. It expects to be received by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and the parliament and government leaders.

According to the President's press-secretary Ruben Shugaryan, the talks will centre on military, political, and economic issues, particularly the presentation of the Karabakh problem in international organisations.

Turkish Assistance to Azerbaijan Viewed

NC2107201292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri
1330 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, we have already commented on Turkey's direct involvement in incidents in Nagorno-Karabakh. Our views were based on facts.

Turkey adopted a biased approach on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem a long time ago. It has supported Azerbaijan in the dispute ever since. Concealing this fact

from the international community is impossible. However, it seems that this is not so important for the neighboring country. The information we have in hand confirms that Turkey is giving significant support to Azerbaijan in the economic, political, military, and other fields. In addition to the military hardware and firearms it has supplied to Azerbaijan, Turkey has sent experienced officers and military experts to serve in that republic. Several Turkish officers are training the men and officers of the Azerbaijan National Army in various military bases in Azerbaijan. They are also organizing Azerbaijan's military units and helping the Azerbaijan Military Command Headquarters draw up its plans for combat operations.

Various sources have been informed on this state of affairs many times. Turkish newspapers also report on this situation from time to time. CUMHURIYET reported on 5 July: Many Turkish officers are voluntarily serving in Azerbaijan as advisers in accordance with President Elchibey's request. At least 10 of them are generals.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH published a similar report. The newspaper said that official sources in Turkey have disclosed that 150 Turkish officers are serving in the ranks of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Relations Established With Georgia

PM2207095792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Video report by V. Nazaryan and M. Nersesyan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Life in Armenia has become a bit easier of late. Gas supplies to domestic consumers have resumed, and the most essential goods—fuel and food—are safely arriving via Georgia which, in a position of total blockade mounted by Azerbaijan, has become Armenia's lifeline, as it were.

Documents on the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Georgia and Armenia have been signed in Yerevan. They were signed by Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian on behalf of our government and by Aleksandr Chikvaidze, head of the Georgian Foreign Ministry, on behalf of Georgia. [passage omitted]

Chinese Charge d'Affaires Arrives in Yerevan

OW2207134992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1255 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Report by Igor Porshnev and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Upon his arrival in Yerevan on Tuesday [21 July] the Chinese Charge d'Affaires Zhang Yan Yan [name as received] pointed to the importance of agreements

reached during the visit paid to Beijing in early July by the Armenian Vice-President and Prime Minister Gagik Arutunyan.

Armenia and China agreed to promote cooperation in trade, science, technology, education, health service, sports, tourism and in the endeavours to ensure external security.

On Wednesday, July 22, Zhang Yan Yan handed a personal message from China's Foreign Minister to the Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisian.

According to information available to DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent in Yerevan, Zhang Yan Yan will have his temporary residence at the Hotel Razdan in the center of Armenia's capital till a building for his embassy is allotted.

Head of Office for Special Programmes Relieved

OW2107102092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0931 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has issued a decree relieving of his duties the head of the republic's special programmes office Vagan Shirkhanyan.

The President's press-service explains the reshuffle by the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh for which Shirkhanyan's office was handling economic aid.

V. Shirkhanyan will temporarily act as Armenia's deputy Defence Minister. More details will follow at a briefing held by the President's press-secretary Ruben Shugaryan in Yerevan, July 22.

Azerbaijan

Mediating Group Submits Karabakh Peace Plan

LD2307100692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Kazimirov, head of Russia's mediating group in Nagorno-Karabakh, on 22 July submitted a new plan for a peaceful settlement to Gamarov, chairman of Azerbaijan's Supreme Soviet. The implementation of the plan, about which the leadership of Armenia has also been briefed, provides for two stages, beginning with an immediate cease-fire along the entire confrontation line and followed by a continuation of the negotiating process concerning all the key issues, culminating with a full settlement.

Armenian Offensive in Karabakh Halted*OW2207132892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1247 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry reports that its forces stopped in the early hours today the Armenian offensive in the north of Nagorno-Karabakh in face of the enemy's superior force. Moreover, in a counter-attack they have routed Armenian units from Kasapt, Metshen, Oradag, Mokhradag, and Demirli in the Agderin (Mardakert) district.

It has been also reported that the Azeri self-defence has resumed the control over the dam of the Ter-Ter water reservoir. In the past 24 hours two Armenian T-72 tanks and three armoured personnel carriers have been incapacitated.

An attack was launched last night from the Armenian territory on the Keshne Gyshlag, the Zangelan region of Azerbaijan. The attack was contained, one T-72 tank and one artillery vehicle have been shot. Five civilians were killed in the Armenian shelling.

The Armenian side denies Baku's reports of a counter-attack by the Azerbaijani forces succeeding in recovering their positions. The Karabakh news agency informs that a successful offensive continues in the Mardakert district.

Baku Radio Updates Situation, Clashes*NC2207191392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's disclosure is as follows:

Although the resistance of the Armenian expeditionary corps units in Yukhary Karabakh's Agdere [formerly Mardakertskiy] Rayon has weakened, the violent clashes are continuing. The operations carried out to clear [name indistinct] from the (?enemy units) did not end without casualties on 21 July. One of our aircraft was shot down.

Azerbaijani units launched an attack in Kel'badzharskiy Rayon on 22 July. They liberated Serdebash from Armenian occupation. Meanwhile, clashes are taking place around Sarsangsk Reservoir. The Azerbaijan Command Headquarters is taking measures to crush and destroy the enemy.

Armenia has not refrained from violating Azerbaijan's border. The Armenian leaders must realize that our borders [words indistinct] and a deserving reply will be given to those who (?wish to violate them).

Kokhne Kyshlakh in Akstafa Rayon was attacked from Armenia's Idzhevanskiy Rayon on 21 July. A deserving reply is being given to the enemy. Azerbaijani units have

destroyed two tanks and an infantry combat vehicle along with their personnel. Meanwhile, 32 Armenian brigands also were killed.

Seidlyar, [name indistinct], and Kazanchi in Zangelanskiy Rayon were fired on from Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon with infantry combat vehicles and large-caliber machine guns from 1900 to 2300 on 21 July. Sadarak in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic was fired on with mortars and missiles at 2200 the same day. Several houses were damaged, two people were wounded, and an Azerbaijani soldier was killed in the town. [Name indistinct] in Sharuz Rayon and the Badabad in Shakhbuzskiy Rayon also were fired on.

Mardakert Reportedly Under Armenian Control*OW2307101792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0954
GMT 23 Jul 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It has come to INTERFAX from well-informed sources in Armenia that contrary to Azerbaijan's allegations of its counter-offensive, most of the Mardakert district (northern part of Nagorno-Karabakh) is still firmly controlled by the Armenian self-defence forces.

A massive attack was mounted by the Azeri forces on the large village of Aterk yesterday afternoon. The attack was beaten off, the Azeri side suffered many casualties and had two tanks and two armoured personnel carriers incapacitated.

Later at night and in the morning today, fighting continued for Maguz, Metzshen and Magamyuzh captured earlier by the Azeris. The Armenian side lost 8 men killed and 11 wounded. One Azeri tank and one armoured personnel carrier were hit.

Reaction to New Armenian Official Reported*LD2207211892 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[I. Grigoryev commentary; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The settlements in Mardakert rayon are passing from hand to hand. Both sides are getting ready for large-scale offensives. Armenia is assembling forces to liberate the Mardakert rayon center. According to Armenian sources, the Azerbaijani Army is massing troops for an offensive in the Gadрут and Martuni sectors.

On 21 July, a new Armenian deputy defense minister, Vagan Sukhinyan, was appointed. The Azerbaijani side believes that this appointment will be followed by a stepping up of operations by the Armenian forces.

Russian Envoy on Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Plan

LD2207180792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1740 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Yusifov for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 22 July—A plan for a peace settlement of the Karabakh conflict has been made public by Vladimir Kazimirov, head of the Russian mediatory mission in Nagorno-Karabakh, at a meeting with representatives of the Azerbaijani parliament on 22 July. He arrived in Baku yesterday. According to the envoy, the initiatives will be carried out in two stages. The first one provides for an immediate cease-fire along the whole of the frontline. The second one provides for the continuation of the negotiating process on all urgent issues, including the settlement of the conflict. Having expressed his gratitude to Russia for displaying initiative, the head of parliament confirmed that the Azerbaijani leadership insists on resolving the problem by political means.

Russian Ambassador Discusses Karabakh Policy

PM2207152792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Jul 92 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Valter Shoniya, Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan, by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Yerovchenkov specially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA under the "Following Remarks in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA" rubric; place and date not given: "Without Getting Into a Polemic With a Colleague"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The 1 July issue of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA contained an interview with Vladimir Stupishin, Russian Federation ambassador to Armenia, which among other things touched on "the right of one independent state to exist on the territory of another," a reference to Nagorno-Karabakh. The article provoked a mixed reaction. We draw to our readers' attention this interview with Valter Shoniya, Russia's first ambassador in Azerbaijan, which he gave to ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Yerovchenkov specially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Yerovchenkov] Valter Aleksandrovich, your colleague's interview suggests that not everybody in the Russian Foreign Ministry has a united view of the Karabakh problem. At any rate, in a recent discussion with journalists you expressed a somewhat contrasting, not to say contradictory, view on settling this acute problem.

[Shoniya] The remarks made by Ambassador V. Stupishin should not be overdramatized. They are certainly his own viewpoint. However, the official position of the Russian leadership and the Foreign Ministry is laid down in Minister Andrey Kozyrev's well-known plan. Let me remind you that this plan is founded on basic principles of international law such as territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, and respect for human

rights and the rights of ethnic minorities. As far as the specific parameters of a future Karabakh settlement are concerned, however, I do not believe that I am entitled to address this issue in an offhand and improvised manner. The issue is too serious and too delicate. It is essential that these parameters be found by the actual parties involved in the conflict, because this is not the sort of occasion where "an uninvolved party can see things more clearly." After all, as an intermediary Russia can only encourage the drawing up of a mutually acceptable solution. I would like to stress the phrase mutually acceptable because a political solution can only be reached on the basis of a considered approach and a balance of interests when the positions of the respective sides have been taken into account. No recommendations, however good the intentions that dictate them, can be realistic, realizable, and—most important of all—lasting, if they completely ignore the other side's positions and interests. In this instance the rule that, as they say, the road to hell is paved with good intentions, is applicable. Russia, as statements by its leaders make plain, realizes full well that a peaceful political settlement—and this is all it desires—can only be promoted by a considered, impartial, and balanced approach. I am convinced that the main task at this stage is to stop the fratricidal war in Karabakh. Only a cease-fire and the organization of talks can make possible the initiation of any solution. If appropriate goodwill were displayed by both sides, then I am sure that the formulation of such a settlement with the relevant specific ingredients would not be long in coming—and world experience bears this out very clearly.

[Yerovchenkov] Do you not think that V. Stupishin's interview contained some confusion of ideas and categories such as nation, people, ethnic minority, or, for example, enclave, state territory?

[Shoniya] I would not like to get into a polemic, especially with my colleague. If we are talking about specific parameters, then a special Nagorno-Karabakh team is working under the Russian foreign minister; the team is directly addressing this problem and is able to make competent and qualified conclusions and statements on this matter. It holds all the cards in its hand, as the saying goes.

Turkish Specialists To Design Mobile Brigades

LD2207205292 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Jul 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to an IPRINDA agency report, Azerbaijan is creating military formations of a new type, similar to the so-called Turkish brigades. These brigades are noted for their high mobility and are being created with the assistance of specialists from Turkey.

Government Not To Join CIS Security Treaty*LD2207192192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1833 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Viktor Shulman for TASS]

[Text] Baku July 22 TASS—The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan qualified as groundless reports of several mass media saying that the former Soviet republic might join the Treaty on Collective Security of the Commonwealth.

The ministry said in a statement on Wednesday [22 July] that replies of Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov at a press conference were misunderstood.

Azerbaijan conducts an independent foreign policy and strives to maintain friendly relations with all countries, including Russia with which it established diplomatic relations, the statement reads. Favourable development of those relations may become the basis for concluding a bilateral agreement with Russia which would solve issues of mutual interest, including the protection of state borders and the status of border troops.

Republic Decides To Join Vienna Conventions*LD2207153792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1504 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Yusifov for TASS]

[Text] Baku July 22 TASS—According to a decision taken during a session of the republic's National Assembly, Azerbaijan has decided to join the Vienna conventions and international pacts on consular and diplomatic relations, civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

In diplomatic circles it is evaluated as "an important step on the path towards acquiring true sovereignty by Azerbaijan". The movement in this direction began in the summer of 1991 with the declaration of the restoration of the republic's independence, fortified later by a constitutional act. Following its recognition by over 120 states, Azerbaijan is actively supporting international law, endeavours to conduct its own independent foreign policy and to become an equal member of the international community.

Presidential Decree Replaces Four Rayon Leaders*NC2207063892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 20 Jul 92*

[Text] A presidential decree has been issued naming Khalid Shirin Ogly Mamedaliyev head of the Zardob Rayon Executive Authority. Mamedov was relieved of his responsibilities as head of the Zardob Rayon Executive Authority because he has been appointed to a new post.

The decree appointed Yusif Mekhtiyev head of the Bilesuvar Rayon Executive Authority. Khan Mamedov was relieved of his responsibilities as the head of the Bilesuvar Rayon Executive Authority because he has been appointed to a new post.

The decree appointed Aynozali Khamid Ogly Orudzhev head of the Akstafa Rayon Executive Authority. Allakhverdiyev has been relieved of his responsibilities as head of the Akstafa Rayon Executive Authority because he has been appointed to a new post.

The decree also appointed Salih Dashdamirov head of the Gulistan Rayon Executive Authority. (Gunyamanov) has been relieved of his responsibilities as head of the Gulistan Rayon Executive Authority because he has been appointed to a new post.

Georgia**Shevardnadze on Difficulties in Western Region***OW2207214992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1703 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the ruling state council, Eduard Shevardnadze, told council members on Tuesday [21 July] night that he would go on a tour of Western Georgia on Thursday. Shevardnadze intends "to visit almost all troubled parts there though foreseeing difficult meetings and protest actions".

He said the tour was urgent "because if the situation in the Zugdidi region is not back to normal soon, things may get out of hand in next door Abkhazia".

Shevardnadze also spoke of having an hour and half meeting with the leader of last month's failed coup in Tbilisi, Walter Shurgaya, now in detention, who also supports the former president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Shevardnadze said he was surprised that a man of common sense such as Shurgaya had turned out to be among government opponents. In his words, Shurgaya spoke in no uncertain terms of being convinced that fighting the new authorities in Tbilisi was hopeless now that Georgia secured membership of the United Nations thereby ensuring its genuine independence.

The Council set up a commission to work out a package of measures aimed at overcoming the social and economic problems which emerged following the armed confrontation in Western Georgia. A special commission was also created to look into the incidents of grievous crimes. The Council is to provide relief aid to bereft families.

Members of the Council also approved a resolution on the guidelines of the government fiscal and crediting policy this year and a decree providing for indices on

private savings because of inflation. All personal deposits made before August 1, 1991 are to be doubled, and the accrued sum is to be released only next year, with price indices being taken into account.

Coup Leader Urges Gamsakhurdia To Resign

AU2207103792 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA
in Georgian 17 Jul 92 p 3

[Written statement with enclosed letter to Vakhtang Razmadze, acting Republic of Georgia procurator general, dated 16 July, Tbilisi, from Valter Shurghaya, chairman of the Georgian Committee for National Disobedience, one of the imprisoned leaders of the 24 June coup attempt: "Valter Shurghaya: 'God Knows, I Have Never Betrayed the President. Now I Clearly See: The Only Correct Path Is His Resignation'"]

[Text] Valter Shurghaya, one of the organizers of the attempted coup d'etat of 24 June, has sent a statement to Vakhtang Razmadze, acting Republic of Georgia procurator general. He requests that his letter (together with the statement) be published in the republican press.

We are publishing below V. Shurghaya's letter, which was sent to our editorial office from the republic's Procurator's Office.

A Statement From Prisoner Valter Shurghaya to Republic of Georgia Procurator General Batoni Vakhtang Razmadze

I am sending you my letter. It is possible that you will not share some of my views. In spite of this, I ask you, nevertheless, to publish it without any changes in any of the Republic's newspapers; it would be preferable if you could publish the original letter.

[Signed] V. Shurghaya

[Dated] 16 July 1992.

Why I Appeared on Television

Georgian history, in essence, embraces two forms of struggle: The struggle for freedom and the struggle to preserve freedom.

Unfortunately, we were united only when faced with a great and most powerful enemy. On other occasions, we attacked one another.

The epoch of David [Aghmashenebeli 1089-1125], Dimitri [1125-1156], Giorgi III [1156-1184], and Tamara [1184-1212] and several other bright periods in our history encompasses only about 200 years; this is very short for a nation that has an age of at least several thousand years.

In their time, many people (including myself) were alarmed by Stalin's remarks that the Georgian nation had been formed in the 19th century. Now, when I view current processes, God forgive me, the following thought often comes to me: Are we indeed formed as a nation?!

The foreign rule of the last 200 years, in spite of the enlightenment provided by Ilia [Chavchavadze, 1837-1907, writer], Vazha [Pshavela, 1861-1915, poet], and Akaki [Tsereteli, 1846-1915, poet] and in spite of three years of independence [1918-1921], has undermined the best qualities within us and exposed envy, enmity, betrayal, and treachery.

"The former nation put out to pasture" that, from time immemorial, has had the great gift of giving birth to heroes and martyrs, has also forgotten to struggle. It does not know against whom to struggle and how to struggle.

Now that God has looked down upon us and given us a great and last chance, the energy collected inside us, which to our misfortune, we have not been able to channel in the right direction, has suddenly exploded.

If things continue in this way, God will punish us, He will punish us for sure.

Nature knows of only one truth—God's truth. If we are to touch it, we must rise up.

Now is not the time to fathom what is right and wrong. If complete national reconciliation does not take place, we will perish.

I have been searching line by line in Georgian history to see if there are any areas in western Georgia in which no blood has been shed.

Thank God, I found some: The saeristavo [province ruled by an *eristavi* or governor in feudal Georgia] of Samegrelo and Raja never drew swords against one another. The Svans [people inhabiting Svaneti, a mountain area in northwest Georgia] also rarely came down to engage in warfare.

In other cases, there was unending bloodshed and a struggle for supremacy that was frequently masked by a desire for unification.

In truth, only Georgians are able to vanquish Georgians.

I am saying all this only because we have to look the truth in the eye. We managed in the past and are managing now to shed each other's blood. The current events in Samegrelo testify to this.

Let us open our eyes and we will see the clear danger threatening Georgia's collapse.

We must save Georgia and its integrity.

Now is not the time to struggle for power.

The Georgian nation is made up of those peoples who lived before us, are living now, and who will live after us (naturally, I am speaking of our flesh and blood).

For Georgia's integrity, we must curb our sympathies and antipathies.

I am not speaking here of Shevardnadze or Gamsakhurdia but of Georgia.

Batoni Zviad Gamsakhurdia said in a conversation with me that on no account does he want to return along a bloody path.

At the moment, bloodshed cannot be avoided.

God knows, I have never betrayed the president. Now I clearly see: The only correct path is his resignation.

Let us give those three years to those who win [the parliamentary elections]. Let us help them with sound and fair criticism. Everyone will have an equal chance in the next elections. It will be clearly shown who has been able to do what; the people will judge according to this.

We have had enough of this bloodshed. Evil begets only evil. We can all see this at every step.

I ask the armed formations in Samegrelo to release unconditionally those they are holding and to act as chivalrously as they did in their attitude to [Giorgi] Qarqarashvili [chief of the Georgian National Guard Main Directorate taken hostage by Gamsakhurdia supporters in Zugdidi on 12 March and released on 20 March] and the others. Someone has to take the first step and show goodwill.

The present authorities should remove the "Mkhedri-
oni" units from the territory of Samegrelo.

I have several other requests.

A battalion should be formed on the territory of Samegrelo in which, apart from local young men, representatives of different areas should serve. The battalion should be a part of the official structures. Its commander should be Vakhtang (Loti) Kobalia. This will remove many problems.

Until the problem is finally resolved, all armed formations operating in the Samegrelo region should immediately and unconditionally stop using their weapons and stop other violence. I am deeply convinced that such methods of struggle have no prospects. They only cause misfortune for our people and are leading Georgian independence to catastrophe.

It would be good if an exception could be made in the case of Samegrelo rayon and the people there be allowed to elect a gamebeli [local administrative chief]. Let them elect whom they want to.

Now, the most important thing.

As far as I know, today or tomorrow Georgia will become a member of the UN. This fact sets the seal on Georgia's independence. An end will be put to 200 years of foreign rule.

To mark this enormous event that is difficult to comprehend all at once, it is worth issuing an amnesty [manip-
esti]. Imagine how many families will get back those members who are in hiding, on the run, or in prison. This should happen before the elections and become a guarantee of national reconciliation.

Of course, it is difficult to lay claim to precise thought and logic from the position of a prisoner but I have tried, insofar as possible, to state my opinions concisely.

However, what I have said can be fitted into two lines from Terenti Graneli [Georgian poet, 1897-1934]:

"The fate of Georgia gives me cause to ponder,

I am suffering my country's pain."

I end with this. I ask the Lord on high to protect Georgia's integrity.

[Signed] Valter Shurgaya

[Dated] Tbilisi, 16 July 1992.

Reconciliation Seen With Gamsakhurdia Supporters

LD2207215192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1907 GMT 22 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 22 Jul—Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze on 23 July will go to Mengreliya, one of Georgia's unstable regions in the west of this former Soviet republic, reported IZVESTIYA newspaper today. According to the press, supporters of the ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia still occupy sufficiently strong positions in western Georgia. According to the newspaper, it is there that "nearly every day the terrorist acts are being committed on the railway where the cargo and passenger trains are being robbed." And it is there, reminds IZVESTIYA, that an assault was made on State Council Deputy Chairman Jaba Ioseliani, and Georgian Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Kavsadze was kidnapped and has not yet been found. The newspaper also reports that before his departure to western Georgia Shevardnadze met Valter Shurgaya, "the man who, together with his supporters, attempted to stage a coup d'etat on 24 June." As is known, this happened on exactly the same day Shevardnadze was going to meet with Boris Yeltsin in Dagomys (a Black Sea resort) where they were discussing the settlement of the conflict in South Ossetia. If we are to believe the IZVESTIYA report, during the meeting Shurgaya promised that "he will never again do anything against Shevardnadze." This statement was received "as a sign that other supporters of Gamsakhurdia will also come to reconciliation."

"In any case, the chairman of the Georgian State Council does not exclude such a possibility," writes the newspaper. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Departs on Western Regions Tour

LD2307093492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze left on 23 July on a working trip to Georgia's western regions. He will visit towns and villages where an unstable political situation still persists. Those in charge of ministries and departments, members of the State Council and representatives of the republican public are accompanying him.

[Unidentified correspondent] Eduard Amvroseyevich, please tell us briefly about the trip's itinerary and its causes.

[Shevardnadze] The causes are known. There has been no calm in the region for a long time, several months now. There has been a lot of destruction and many casualties. Naturally, my mission now is to reach a consensus with everyone, with everyone, concerning ethnic peace and national reconciliation. It is to reach a big compromise, a national compromise. This is what I have in mind as I depart. I am confident that the trip will be crowned with success.

[Correspondent] Where, then, are you going to visit?

[Shevardnadze] All the rayons of the region, seven rayons, the towns of Zugdidi and Poti, Abasha, Senaki, Kobi and Martyl.

Mkhedrioni Groups Withdraw From Western Region

OW2207194992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1849 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] All divisions of the Mkhedrioni paramilitary groups were withdrawn from Western Georgia July 23, Interfax learned at the press center of the republic's Internal Affairs Ministry. Replacing them in the region, where bandit gangs continue to terrorize local residents, are 300 police officers.

Chairman of the State Soviet of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Western Georgia Thursday [23 July].

State Council Assesses 24 Jun Failed Coup

AU2107085692 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA
in Georgian 7 Jul 92 p 1, 2

[Statement issued by the Republic of Georgia State Council; place and date not given: "Democracy, First and Foremost, Implies Order; Order is the Rule of Law"]

[Text] A Political Assessment of the Events of 24 June

The armed adventure by the supporters of the ex-president on 24 June had as its goal a coup d'etat and the restoration of the overthrown authoritarian regime by means of mass disorders and bloodshed. It revealed:

1) The complete hopelessness of the struggle of the former president and his supporters against their own country. 2) Deficiencies in the activities of the new

authorities. 3) Trends indicating an improvement of the political atmosphere in our society.

In view of the fact that peaceful political struggle is alien to the destructive forces supporting the former president and they are clearly standing on the path of sabotage, physical and psychological terror, and armed confrontation, the state authorities are obliged to protect the population from their bandit attacks. To do this, it is necessary to comprehend those political, ideological, social, and psychological factors that caused the events of 24 June and to implement effective measures to prevent a similar thing from happening in the future.

1. In October 1990, forces came to power that tried to hide their complete incompetence in the matter of state administration under the mask of chauvinistic slogans and by establishing enmity, irreconcilability, and mutual distrust among the population. With the aim of maintaining and strengthening the severely centralized administration and also through fear of losing control over the socioeconomic and intellectual life of society, these authorities tried to maintain the Soviet socialist structures.

In this way, Gamsakhurdia's totalitarian pro-facist regime was formed.

2. The preservation of an authoritarian pro-facist regime here at the end of the 20th century would have been possible only if Georgia had developed as a closed state cut off from the democratic world. With this aim, the former authorities took monopoly control of the mass media, declared a merciless struggle against progressive trends in the political, cultural, and generally intellectual spheres, and dealt harshly with the opposition and dissidents.

To divert the attention of the population from social and economic problems, they stirred up local separatism, aggravated ethnic conflicts, and tried to isolate Georgia from the democratic processes and general trends of economic development and integration that were established in the world.

3. In conditions of total disinformation and the absence of democratic institutions and traditions, a part of the population that had lost its way in Soviet pseudo-internationalism and a way of life imposed upon it by force by a foreign state easily swallowed the bait and blindly followed its idol along the fatal path of political isolationism. The former president's fawning and selfish entourage contributed in every way to this.

4. The noisy support of uninitiated persons, the hypocrisy of those close to him, and the inadmissibility of critical opinion deprived the former president of a sense of reality. He was unable to make the appropriate conclusions from the events of September and October [growing opposition protests in Tbilisi that resulted in confrontations with the authorities and casualties], further hardened his authoritarian line, and, in January 1992 he was wholly legitimately removed from power.

5. Gamsakhurdia's supporters, left alone without him, can be divided into two basic categories: 1) A specific group of the population that has been poisoned by chauvinistic and pro-fascist ideas. 2) A circle of persons who had been privileged during his rise and who, being well aware of their incompetence in the matter of state administration, had no other means of returning to power than through the restoration of the old regime.

6. Taking refuge in another state in the hope of satisfying his political ambitions, the former president, through bandit armed detachments operating in Georgia, planned and implemented large-scale sabotage and terrorist operations: A transport blockade continued for months, important installations and highways were put out of operation, and enterprises and agricultural work were paralyzed. What they had not managed to destroy during their period of rule in country that had already been brought to the edge of a profound crisis, they then systematically wiped out. In conjunction with this, the peaceful population was being intimidated and terrorized, and—what is highly significant—a whole number of regions were cut off from the sources of information. Moreover, on the contrary, representatives of the overthrown government unleashed a campaign of disinformation and slander not only in the so-called "underground" publications but also in the legal press. All this was used by the supporters of the former president to sow distrust toward the new authorities as a result of which, according to them, large sectors of the population were to support the organizers of the armed attacks.

At the same time, it was even visible from the outside that the new authorities were gradually becoming stronger, Georgia was establishing a worthy place for itself on the international arena, and it was being recognized as a full-fledged subject of international law. Its policies up to and after 24 June were receiving the active support of the leading countries in the world, and the prospects for political and socioeconomic stabilization were being outlined in reality. The talks held in Dagomys with the Russian leadership that could have brought (and did bring) hope for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Tskhinvali region, the lifting of the energy and economic blockade by Russia, and the prospects of a cardinal improvement in mutual relations resulted in the acceleration of armed action.

It was carried out on 24 June not only in Tbilisi. Attacks on departments of local administration and the police also occurred in several rayons and towns in western Georgia. The fact that these bandit attacks were supervised by the former president is borne out by documentary proof in the form of the decrees signed by him that were intended precisely for this occasion. It is a highly significant fact that an anti-Georgian attack, one aimed at destabilization, simultaneously took place in Sukhumi [capital of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic—a reference to the invasion of the Abkhaz Ministry of Internal Affairs building by Abkhaz guardsmen and the physical ousting of Givi Lominadze, Abkhaz internal affairs

minister appointed to that post by the Georgian Government], a fact that clearly points to those who are using the struggle by Gamsakhurdia and his cohorts against their own country to achieve their ambitious and politically dangerous aims.

In spite of the casualties and the considerable material damage caused to Georgia by this armed adventure, it quickly came to nothing. How many times already has the sense of reality betrayed Gamsakhurdia and his associates? The population did not support the armed adventure. On the contrary, many citizens expressed their combat readiness and furthermore, participated in the suppression of the armed attack. It is also significant that the population of almost all the rayons in Georgia expressed their readiness to actively support the authorities. This again proves that Georgia will no longer return to the course of authoritarianism, self-isolation, lawlessness, and violence that was conducted by the Gamsakhurdia regime and that is contrary to the nature and traditions of the Georgian people.

The new authorities have proved their viability and in only a few months have won the trust of the population through bold and effective measures thanks to which, in a country that has been devastated and brought to the brink of chaos, it has been possible to avoid the danger of civil war and hunger, enter the international arena, begin the process of establishing peace in the Tskhinvali region, and transfer land to the private ownership of the peasants. If there is anything that is positive in the events of 24 June, it is precisely that unanimity in a critical situation that was shown by the leadership, the leading political parties, progressive forces, armed formations, and the population of the republic. The nation has embarked on the path of unity and consolidation and this represents the main achievement of the last few months.

However, the events of 24 June also clearly showed serious shortcomings in the work of the state structures. In particular:

1. There was direct betrayal on the part of certain subunits of the internal troops. Several officers and soldiers handed over to the bandits hardware and weapons and even joined them. This is an indicator not only of weak work with personnel but also the inadmissible politicization of military formations. A soldier should serve the country and the state and not separate individuals or parties depending on their political or individual sympathies. In the future, in conditions of free elections, the authorities will periodically change by legal means and this, of course, should not be followed by any kind of excess in the military formations.

2. The curfew rules are not being observed. It is inconceivable that, even in conditions of symbolic patrolling on the streets, a column of military hardware and armed persons were able to get to the center of the town from the outskirts without anyone knowing about it.

3. The intelligence and information service has not started to function yet. For known reasons, it is only in the process of being formed, and it requires maximum attention and assistance from the authorities, although it is also inadmissible that it did not have information about the preparation of action on such a scale.

4. The special intelligence and counterintelligence service and also that in the military departments—in the National Guard and the Ministry of Defense—are not functioning at the appropriate level. When there are many armed formations in the country including those that are struggling against the authorities and are being controlled outside the country, such a service is obliged not only to gather information but also, with the implementation of appropriate measures, suppress any attempts to stage a coup d'état.

5. The delay in the creation of a united army is wholly unjustified. The existence of militarized formations that are subordinate to various bodies is hindering military organizational development and complicating administration and coordination. The operation to liberate the television center was carried out by precisely such formations and volunteers, which increased the danger of accidental casualties and made it easier for a part of the armed band to escape justice.

6. The law enforcement bodies did not carry out purposeful work to unmask the initiators of the destabilization and to render them harmless in time. It is not a question of the political opponents of the present authorities but of those who, with weapons in their hands, are engaged in illegal activities.

7. Governmental bodies at different levels, including the State Council, do not have a plan of action that can be implemented in an extreme or emergency situation. Installations of strategic importance were not protected as they should have been. A reserve system of effective communications and informing the population must be created.

8. There is a low level of discipline in ministries and state establishments that is complicating the adoption and implementation of operational decisions.

9. The same can be said about administration offices and corresponding services in autonomies, rayons, and towns. In places, the lack of authority of local government among the population is contributing to the activities of destructive forces.

10. As a result of all the aforementioned, the State Council Presidium is unable to administer and coordinate activities with the appropriate efficiency, which was manifested during the organization of the military operation to liberate the television center. One of the principal tasks of the State Council Presidium is to form a single regular army and its qualified command and control and also to bring the Georgian police up to the level of international standards.

In addition to these factors, it is also necessary to take into account the following points. As is known, the participants in the attack on the television center were carrying messages from the former president to the National Guard and businessmen. It is clear that, in such cases, they were appealing to those whom they were hoping to win over. In spite of the fact that these appeals were equivalent to firing blank shots and the National Guard, the Mkhedrioni [Horsemen—paramilitary organization], internal troops, and police were equal to the occasion, the fact itself is significant. During a specific period of time, insufficient attention was paid to the National Guard, and naturally, it was possible for discontent to become ripe among its ranks. Each authoritative body needs to show greater concern for military formations and the army, armed forces, and police personnel. In this respect, positive shifts in this direction have fortunately already begun.

Businessmen also have grounds to be discontent. Economic reform can in no way get established, and bureaucratic and mafia structures are holding sway, which is causing justified concern not only among businessmen. The strengthening of the economy is impossible without the formation of free market relations and competition. Indeed, unless we regulate economic life, it will be impossible for us to establish a stable situation in the country.

The armed adventure of 24 June came to nothing. The same fate awaits any adventure directed against the democratic process. Authoritarianism in Georgia is doomed, since the great majority of the population has proved its aspiration toward freedom and democracy.

However, to finally put a stop to the terrorist and bandit actions of the supporters of the former president that are directed against the vital interests of Georgia and that are resulting in wholly unjustified casualties and considerable material damage, the authorities must sharply increase the level to which they are organized and their efficiency and accelerate the process to improve economic relations and create a law-governed state.

The law enforcement bodies should, through the force of the law and within its framework, consistently struggle against terrorists and bandits and also corruption and permissiveness, but this struggle should in no way assume the character of a "witch hunt". Human rights that have been recognized by international law must not be violated. The law enforcement bodies are struggling not against political opponents of the government but are protecting the population against terrorism and banditism, and it is their duty to guarantee law and order and peace in the country.

Democracy implies, first and foremost, order. Order is the rule of law. The law, however, must be the same for everyone.

The Republic of Georgia State Council.

Gamsakhurdia Asks To Overfly Russian Territory*PM2207133792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
16 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 4*

[Report by Vladimir Lapskiy: "Gamskhurdia Asks Russia To Allow His Plane To Fly Over"]

[Text] Supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia have requested Boris Yeltsin to give permission for the ousted Georgian president to fly through Russian airspace. He has been invited to Helsinki by the "Finland-Georgia" society and a group of deputies from the Finnish parliament. The fugitive president, in the words of a REUTER's correspondent, has currently found refuge in the "Chechen Republic, which borders Russia." Let this geographical (or political?) inexactitude rest on the conscience of the British reporter.

The exact date of Gamsakhurdia's departure from Grozny is not being stated for security reasons. In any case it is a question of the next few days. The Finnish visa received by the ex-president has already come into force, and it is valid for two weeks. The society has sent a press release to Boris Yeltsin's chancellery, claiming that the "Russian personnel" at the airport in Grozny have refused to service a plane carrying Gamsakhurdia.

Let us recall that the ousted president originally tried to get to Helsinki before the opening of the meeting of the heads of state and government of the CSCE. It took place 9 and 10 June. Georgia was represented by Eduard Shevardnadze. Obviously Gamsakhurdia expected to force his way to the microphones in the meeting hall. The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs answered the inconvenient guest that it would allow him to fly to Helsinki only after the end of the summit. Naturally, Gamsakhurdia is flying to Helsinki as a private person.

Peacekeeping Mission To Last at Least 3 Months*OW2207215092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1849 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The mission of peacekeeping forces in South Ossetia will last at least three months. But if circumstances require, the mission will be extended. This was announced in an interview with Interfax by Deputy

Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia General Robinson Tushurashvili, who is plenipotentiary of the Georgian State Council in the Kartly zone (the Georgian name for South Ossetia).

According to Tushurashvili, the most pressing issue in the region was the return of refugees.

S. Ossetian Leader To Defend Tskhinvali*PM2207132892 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
21 Jul 92 p 1*

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent Anatoliy Grachev "From the Hot Spots": "The People of Tskhinvali Have Slept Easy for a Week"]

[Excerpts] Tskhinvali—I was conscious of the air of war when I attended the send-off for the North Ossetian battalion of peacekeeping forces being sent from Vladikavkaz to South Ossetia. Young guardsmen were embracing women, wives with children in their arms were weeping as they said goodbye to their husbands, and parents were urging on their sons as they proudly showed off in front of them with assault rifles on their shoulders. [passage omitted]

Colonel General G. Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister, said the following clear and lucid words:

"If you see 'strangers' carrying weapons at the boundary of the buffer zone, you must catch them; if they resist, kill them; if you notice combat hardware, seize it, and if they will not surrender it, destroy that too..." [passage omitted]

During a meeting with T. Kulumbekov, chairman of the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet, in his underground office bunker I asked him the following question: What will happen if the peacekeeping forces leave and the bombardment of Tskhinval resumes?

"We will defend the city... If we cannot hold out, we will all go into the mountains and start a guerrilla war, they will not have a quiet life. It will not be possible to expel all Ossetians from their ancient lands or just annihilate them." [passage omitted]

Estonia

Government Denies Reports of Estonian Guerillas

LD2207202892 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network
in Estonian 1400 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The Estonian Government categorically refutes the news about the existence of armed guerilla units in Estonia spread in the world press along with their alleged attacks on Russian military units. This is what Neeme Brus, the government's press spokesman, said to ETA today. Recently there have been unfortunate armed incidents between the Kaitseliit [defense league] and Russian soldiers, but those have been caused by public order violations by the Russian Army and by the fact that they ignore Estonian laws. [ITAR-TASS in English at 1841 GMT on 22 July in a similar report adds: "The Russian side most often resorted to arms first", Heeme Brus told ETA News Agency on Wednesday [22 Jul]."]

It is particularly upsetting that respectable information agencies like REUTER and FRANCE PRESS have linked the Estonian Kaitseliit with "the forest brethren" of the 1940s and 1950s. [ITAR-TASS in English at 1841 GMT on 22 Jul in a similar report adds: "The spokesman categorically denied the existence of guerilla formations which attack the Russian Army. "The Forest Brothers" is an official organisation called to ensure civil peace in the country, he added."]

The statement says the following: The behavior of the Russian Army in Estonia is of a provocative nature. There are more and more cases of soldiers violating public order and threatening Estonian law and order officers with arms. Appeals to commanders of Russian military units have not encouraged prevention of incidents. Naturally, the police and the defense forces must always seek ways for resolving any conflicts which arise in a peaceful manner. However, one must not forget that they are designated to provide order in a sovereign state. There are situations where one must act with any means.

The government's press spokesman was convinced that discipline in the Estonian defense forces will be substantially raised by the Estonian Defense Council resolution which subordinates defense forces—until presidential elections—to the government. Kaitseliit commanders who have given orders to use arms without any grounds or who have issued aggressive statements against the Russian Army on their own behalf have been severely punished. Several of them have been dismissed.

Prime Minister Tiit Vahi said to ETA today that the Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia is a matter for talks. Russian soldiers stationed here must naturally observe laws of the Republic of Estonia. The government has taken upon itself the task of securing safety for soldiers and their families in Estonia.

New Round of Russian-Estonian Talks Begin

LD2207205392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya
Ostankino Television First Program Network
in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Another round of talks between Russia and Estonia began in Tallinn today.

[Correspondent Kh. Lenk] At the recent conference in Helsinki the Baltic countries received a certain amount of support from a number of leaders of Western states, especially on the question of the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic region. On the other hand, the Russian Supreme Soviet decision on human rights in Estonia, which was adopted recently, will have a serious impact on the way the talks go in the future.

The Estonian side is insisting that army units—and they comprise about 20,000 officers and men—should be withdrawn by the end of this year. The Russian delegation considers that this time-scale is unrealistic. The Estonian delegation completely denies reports of human rights violations and backs this up by the numerous conclusions of Western experts. However, the Russian side considers that the very fact that nearly one-third of the Estonian population are still without citizenship is an infringement of the bilateral treaty of 15 January last year, which was signed by Boris Yeltsin and Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet, where the parties pledged to give citizenship to all who desired it of their own free will. It would appear that all these problems are unlikely to be solved at the level of the delegations.

Russia To Cease Border Protection

OW2207143692 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1350 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Another round of talks between Estonian and Russian delegations began on July 22 in Lohusalu outside Tallinn. In the course of consultations which preceded it the working groups on border issues agreed in principle that beginning with August 1 Russian frontier guards will cease to protect Estonia's Northern and Western borders, the chief of Estonia's border protection department Andrus Oovel told BF [BALTFAX]. He said he hopes that a corresponding agreement will be signed during the present negotiations.

Therefore as of August 1 the entire length of Estonia's border will be protected by Estonia's own frontier guards. According to A. Oovel, the issue of transferring the border posts, cantonments and equipment belonging to Russian frontier guards to Estonia will be settled in a special agreement.

In the meantime Russian officials have said that the total withdrawal of Russian frontier guards from Estonia will

become possible only by May 31, 1993. "For our part we continue to believe that the frontier troops should be withdrawn before the end of this year", said A. Oovel.

Deputy Sues Government Over Citizenship Law

OW2207190292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1748 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A member of the Estonian parliament, Vladimir Lebedev, has brought a suit in the Supreme Court today against the government charging it with violation of the law on citizenship and the Russian-Estonian treaty signed in January 1991.

Lebedev told our correspondent that last April he had applied to the Estonian government for Estonian citizenship, referring in his letter of application to Article 3 of the Russian-Estonian treaty, which provides for the free choice of citizenship for residents of both countries, and to Article 3 of the law on citizenship, according to which all those eligible for Estonian citizenship on the basis of international agreements should be immediately granted it if they wish.

His letter was forwarded to the Passport Department, which, according to Lebedev, refused to grant him Estonian citizenship immediately, claiming that a naturalization period was necessary before that.

Ministry Comments on Russian Resolution

PM2207110692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Leonid Levitskiy report: "Estonian Foreign Ministry Accuses Russia of Political Pressure"]

[Text] Tallinn—The republic's Foreign Ministry has made a statement about the Russian Supreme Soviet Resolution "On Human Rights in Estonia".

It emphasizes that the new Constitution and laws leave nobody without citizenship. Even people who are newcomers to Estonia can receive it after two years of naturalization.

In the Estonian side's opinion, the Russian Supreme Soviet's decision is a continuation of military and political pressure. Threats of economic sanctions will inevitably complicate talks between the sides. The Estonian Foreign Ministry considers that an attempt is being made to conduct the talks from a position of strength. In the same issue of the newspaper RAKHVA KHYAEL [as transliterated] in which the Foreign Ministry statement is set out, there is a column "Russia Threatens Estonia." Its author considers the Russian border guards' selective control in Ivangorod to be an open claim to Estonian lands.

I am not going to comment on either the Russian parliament's resolution or the Estonian Foreign Ministry's statement. However, I will point out that both sides in alluding to the treaty "On the Foundations of Interstate Relations Between the RSFSR and the Estonian Republic" are interpreting in different ways those paragraphs of this document which were supposed to clearly record the rights of the Russian population in Estonia and of Estonians in Russia. The looseness of expression is one of the reasons for the escalating conflict between the countries. Each side interprets the treaty's concepts to its own advantage....

As one Narva City Council deputy noted, Russia was forced to show concern for Russians' rights in Estonia. Yet another hotbed of interethnic tension is developing on its border. He adduced the following fact. A year ago only 5 percent of Narva's population expressed the desire to leave Estonia. Today the number has grown to 80 percent. It is clear that such a quantity of people simply cannot resettle in another country at one go. For this reason the following call has come into being: Let us all leave together, along with our forefathers' graves, our houses, streets, and plants.

It is in this way that moods very similar to those in the Dniester region come into existence and are strengthened. There is only one civilized method of fighting against them—by convincing the people that they are living in their own home, in their own homeland, and that nothing threatens their future.

Agriculture Minister on Gloomy Harvest Forecast

LD2207202192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network
in Estonian 1200 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Estonian Agriculture Minister Aavo Molder said in an interview to the Baltic News Service that Estonia's grain harvest this year will be (?half) that of last year and fodder resources will be down by a third compared with last year. According to Molder, the total grain harvest this year will be 400,000-420,000 tonnes, while in 1991 it amounted to 930,000 tonnes. The minister noted that there could be difficulties in the coming winter with both the food and fodder grade cereals. The EC, however, has pledged to make up for the shortfall. We are expecting 175,000 tonnes of fodder grain from them by way of aid. In September, EC experts will be visiting Estonia to determine the extent of possible potato aid. Molder noted that it would be incorrect to declare the situation a catastrophe. It would be much better to direct all efforts towards bringing in the harvest.

Four Presidential Nominations Registered

LD2207211292 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network
in Estonian 1200 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpt] The Estonian electoral commission has registered four electoral programs as of today. This is what

Erik-Juhan Truuvali, chairman of the electoral commission said to ETA. They are the Fatherland, the Independent Royalists, the Moderates, and the Secure Home. Registration of electoral programs continues until nominations for candidate deputies close, which is on 6 August.

The chairman of the Estonian electoral commission told ETA that so far nominations for two presidential candidates have been put forward: they are Lennart Meri and Arnold Ruutel. A collection of signatures required to put forward their nominations is already in progress.

Documents for the nominations of two other presidential candidates have been presented to the commission. They are both from Tartu: (Jaak Langot) and (Uno Ruu). The latter has dual Estonian and Canadian nationality. [passage omitted]

Initiative Group for Baltic Russia Interviewed

LD2207202992 Tallinn Estonian Television Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] [Announcer] The republican press has already reported about the so-called Slav Assembly. Today we would like to present one of its leaders to you.

[Correspondent Vladimir Velman] Nina Ignatyevna Bondareva, on 9 July a meeting of the Slav Assembly, as it is called, took place, and today we at the editorial office received a telephone call so that you could say what you evidently have on your mind. What would you like to tell us?

[Nina Bondareva, spokesman of the Initiative Group for Baltic Russia] We Slavs living here - and we make up nearly 90 percent of the whole Russian-speaking population, so to speak - we are Slavs. It is not good for us to isolate ourselves from each other and set up, say, a separate Russian community, or a Ukrainian or a Byelorussian one. For us a Slav, well, community, or a Slav commune would be acceptable. We need, well, our own body of power which would serve our interests and which would represent us everywhere, both outside and inside Estonia.

[Velman] What do you think—I have in mind the three major Russian-language newspapers, newspapers which are issued in the Russian language in Estonia, namely ESTONIYA, MOLODEZH ESTONII, and even DEN ZA DNEM—why have all these papers taken a negative attitude to your Slav Assembly?

[Bondareva] I, so to speak, know precisely why this is so. The thing is that the Slav Assembly is being set up precisely as a Slav one, and that persons of Jewish nationality are not accepted in the Slav Assembly.

[Velman] Do you really think that Jews are to blame for the disintegration of the Soviet Union?

[Bondareva] You know, this issue is even somewhat wider. That is, it would even be appropriate to speak not

of a disintegration of the Soviet Union, even if I think—and I have confirmation in large numbers of the fact that participation of persons of Jewish nationality in the disintegration of the Soviet Union was very considerable. One of the, well, facts confirming this, well, is as follows. The program of the Estonian People's Front and similar programs of people's fronts of other republics which very actively, well, fought for secession from the USSR—those programs for some reason have turned out to be strongly similar to Zionist programs for disintegration of the Soviet Union.

[Velman] Do you consider yourself to be antisemitic?

[Bondareva] Well, no, you know, I do not consider myself antisemitic even though there might be talk of this because we are here, frankly, talking about isolating ourselves from the Jewish population. However, when there is a war against the Russian nation in progress, and when this war has destroyed my state, when I have already become aware of patriotic forces near me—and that is not only me but also numbers of other people, well, in Russia—we have clarified who it is fighting the USSR and the Russian people, then yes, it is appropriate and correct to speak of Jews in terms of participants of this disintegration process.

[Velman] Does your movement have much support?

[Bondareva] Well, for the moment it is perhaps too early to speak of supporters because a small number of people of Slav nationality—compared with the numbers living in Estonia—took part in the meeting, and newspapers did not provide information about this meeting, and for this reason others learned of it, well, only very superficially. For this reason it would be incorrect to speak of how many supporters there are. We are talking about the whole Slav population living in Estonia.

[Velman] Do you not think you are putting yourself at risk when you speak about protecting the interests of the whole Slav population?

[Bondareva] Specifically, what could I be putting at risk? I represent this, so to speak, population, and I can voice some kind of concern for my people and display initiative. I understand, that is, that through this mechanism—that is, through creating a Slav national community and through creating a body of power for it, one can protect interests and provide for those interests in the independent Estonia already, in this state where one nation has been provided with bodies of power and with everything necessary for normal life; while the other finds itself unclaimed and not provided for.

Social Payments Fund in Deficit

LD2207205792 Tallinn Estonian Television Network
in Estonian 1800 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The social fund is 13.4 million Estonian kroons [EEK] short for subsistence payments and allowances in July. ETA was told of this today by (Lembit Zernat),

director of the social fund's office. The social fund has deposited 68.3 million EEK at its bank but pensioners and those receiving allowances will not benefit because cash is not circulating, he said. Inasmuch as the social fund can provide only for a section of the subsistence payments the state subsidizes our elderly people and other allowance recipients. However, even the Ministry of Finance has failed to provide a sum of 17.4 million EEK. In fact, 2-3 million EEK daily are being received at the social fund from the Ministry of Finance, and they are paid out immediately, Lembit Zernat said, but it is not possible to satisfy all the recipients of payments at the same time.

Ministry Determines Social Subsistence Minimum

*PM2207142392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[BUSINESS-FACT-AEN report: "You Can Live In Estonia On 222 Krooni"]

[Text] The Estonian Ministry of Labor's Social Research Center has determined the social subsistence minimum in the republic.

It transpires that as of 1 July, an able-bodied adult living as frugally as possible would have to spend 222 krooni a month. This figure is made up of 123 krooni for food, 26 krooni for housing, 20 krooni for transport, and 53 krooni for other goods and services.

On this basis the budget for a family of four (two adults and two children) would be 3.12 times the subsistence minimum, or 692.6 krooni.

Latvia

Further on Rublis Replacing Ruble as Currency

*PM2307110092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
22 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Irina Litvinova report: "Latvian Rublis Used as Payment in Latvia"]

[Text] As of 20 July the Latvian rublis has entirely ousted Russian money from the republic. The new currency unit has been sold at exchange offices for one Russian ruble and 10 kopeks.

This rate of exchange—which does not favor the Russian ruble—is a purely administrative one. Money changers are "making capital" out of the desperate position of those people who have to buy local currency from them, like it or not: These are mainly visitors on business trips and vacationists. The agreements being reached by the two states' bankers on mutual transactions are far more important.

Talks are under way in Moscow. The Bank of Latvia Press Center said that the sides have reached agreement on the main points, but promised to give details only

when the delegation has returned to Riga. The proposal to compare the two rubles' exchange rates via their relationship to the German mark may win the day. At present, noncash transactions have been suspended. Aware that lack of coordination in the banks may paralyze the activity of private business and state enterprises, Eynars Repshe, president of the Bank of Latvia, urged commercial banks to open correspondent accounts for Latvian entrepreneurs on their eastern neighbor's territory. This will secure Latvian business to a considerable extent; 80 percent of their exports comprise, for instance, shipments of ferrous and nonferrous metals that are largely bought for rubles in Ukraine and Russia.

As of 20 July the Committee for Monetary Reform has made it mandatory for hard-currency stores to trade in Latvian rublis. Initially dismayed at such a dangerous decision for them, owners of hard-currency outlets have found a way out by establishing a "free" rate for the German mark, which in their stores amounted to 150 Latvian rublis for the German currency. Thus, the Latvian rublis has boldly gotten afloat solo. Its true relationship to its Russian counterpart will be decided by the market in the foreseeable future.

Further on Ban of Nonferrous Metal Exports

*LD2207204392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
0900 GMT 22 Jul 92*

[Text] I will begin right away with information which has just come in. In my opinion it is rather welcome news, although not to everybody, of course. The export of nonferrous metals of any kind from the republic is discontinued until further instructions. This is stated in the order by Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia, which was signed today.

The only exception is products made from nonferrous metals which are being exported from the republic in accordance with concluded contracts as finished products or component parts. The customs department of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Defense are instructed not to allow export of nonferrous metals of any kind from the republic, even with licenses.

Any attempted export should be immediately reported to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the cargo must be detained for inspection. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is instructed to carry out additional measures to ward off the plunder of nonferrous metals in the republic.

Lithuania

'Insignificant' Leak at Nuclear Plant Noted

*LD2307090192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 0700 GMT 23 Jul 92*

[Text] "Vesti," a newscast on Russian television, yesterday reported an accident at the Ignalina nuclear power station.

Radio listeners have been telephoning this morning to inquire about what happened at Ignalina. Therefore, we report once again that on 20 July at 1532 there was a leak of helium from the gas circuit of the reactor in the first power unit of the Ignalina nuclear power plant. The leak occurred when the [word instinct] at the helium cleaning system was slowed down. There was an extremely insignificant increase in the discharge of radioactive substances into the environment during the accident; the increase was 15 curies only, and consisted of 95 curies per 24 hour period. The standard rate per power unit is 750 curies in a 24-hour period.

According to Viktor Shevardin, director general of the Ignalina nuclear power plant, the radiation level did not change, either in the nuclear plant or around it. At present, the capacity of the first power unit of the power plant has been reduced by about 50 percent.

Officials Comment on Report

LD2307083592 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 0600 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] During the night, no radiation exceeding the normal level was observed in Finland, the Radiation Protection Center says. Russian television reported last night that the Ignalina Nuclear Power Station in Lithuania earlier this week discharged a small amount of radioactive substances into the air. The Lithuanian authorities have denied the report. Last night the Radiation Protection Center was in touch with the Lithuanian radiation protection authorities, who said that nothing out of the ordinary happened at the power station.

Ignalina Nuclear Plant Faces Higher Prices

LD2007100992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] During this quarter, Ignalina nuclear electric power station will pay approximately 4 million rubles per one nuclear fuel cassette. However, by the fourth quarter its price may reach 5.3 million rubles, reports the Baltic News Service Agency.

The Russian enterprise which supplies nuclear fuel sent a warning telegram concerning the new prices. The telegram notes that, compared to 1991, fuel prices have increased by 30 percent, while during the fourth quarter they will be increased by as much again compared to the third. At the beginning of the current year, one cassette was priced only at 1,100 rubles, during the second it increased by yet another thousand.

In the course of a year, Ignalina nuclear electric power station requires 1,600 such cassettes. However, half of this number has been purchased already. At any one time, the reactor contains about 1,600 nuclear cassettes, of which normally approximately two or three are replaced during a 24-hour period.

Station Director Viktor Shevaldin told a Baltic News Service correspondent that the price of a cassette may yet be changed since a new protocol of the Russian enterprise containing new fuel prices, is soon expected, and then negotiations concerning them, will take place.

During the first quarter, the station's administration succeeded in reducing the cassette price, thus the director hopes that success will also be attained now in negotiating it down this time as well. It is obvious that with the increase in fuel prices, the price of electric energy will also increase. It has not been calculated for the time being. However, Power Engineering Minister Leonas Asmantas thinks that the increase in the cost of electricity will be comparatively smaller than that of nuclear fuel.

West To Provide Assistance

LD2007091892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Excerpt] In the near future, the West plans to provide technical assistance to the Ignalina nuclear electric power station. This information was relayed by Adolfas Venckus, the Lithuanian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the European Community.

Consultations concerning such assistance were taking place in Brussels yesterday at the working group meeting of the 24 most developed world nations. At the meeting, Ambassador Adolfas Venckus emphasized the importance of the Ignalina nuclear electric power station for Lithuania and also for the neighboring states. He requested that in corresponding meeting documents, the Republic of Lithuania be alluded to as an independent nuclear energy object. [passage omitted]

Implications of Drought on Agriculture Noted

PM2307092492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jul 92 First Edition p2

[Correspondent Yuriy Stroganov report: "Opposition Convinced That Lithuania Is Heading for Catastrophe"]

[Text] The Lithuanian Government has proposed declaring a state of emergency in agriculture.

Statistics show that the production of basic foodstuffs is falling every month, while prices are gradually creeping upward. According to impartial figures, in the first six months of this year, livestock and poultry purchases fell by 17 percent in comparison to the same period last year. Milk and egg purchases fell by 29 percent and 18 percent respectively. All this is certainly not only the result of villagers trying to take their goods to market. There is a feed shortage, and complex processes are taking place in rural areas. Some private farms are already achieving brilliant success, but, as a whole, the rapid collapse of collective farms has hit production. Reform is moving with difficulty, as elsewhere in the former Soviet Union. Prime Minister G. Vagnorius considers its progress

normal and believes that destructive forces are the only impediment. The opposition is convinced that Lithuania is heading for catastrophe.

The current drought has added to the difficulties. Its impact on agriculture prompted the government decision on the need to introduce a state of emergency in rural areas for a period of four months. Admittedly, as always, one of the negative factors influencing the state of agriculture is said to be the failure of Russia and several other CIS states to pay Lithuanian farmers for meat and milk; the Lithuanian side estimates that the debt amounts to some 3 billion rubles [R].

However, accusing Russia of every sin, as is now the habit in many of the countries which have formed in the territory of the former Soviet Union, will not save the situation; urgent measures are needed to eliminate the effects of the drought. The loss is depressing. Specialists predict that, at best, the grain harvest will be approximately half that of last year. The sugar beet harvest is expected to reach only 56 percent of last year's yield;

vegetables—55 percent; and potatoes—67 percent. According to Agriculture Minister R. Survila, livestock productivity is declining and a great deal less feed is being procured.

A state commission has been set up to assess the effects of the drought. A series of urgent measures is planned. Various preferential terms for allocating fertilizer and grain resources and preserving pedigree livestock are envisaged. Large amounts of money will be channeled into eliminating the effects of the drought.

We must assume that the Lithuanian peasants will gradually overcome their difficulties. However, we can also assume that social tension in society will increase in the fall because of the aforementioned difficulties. In the approach to the elections, the opposition will try to highlight the government's errors in implementing reform, and the drought and its consequences will add fuel to the fire. On the other hand, the government will do its utmost to use the effects of the drought to repel political attacks.